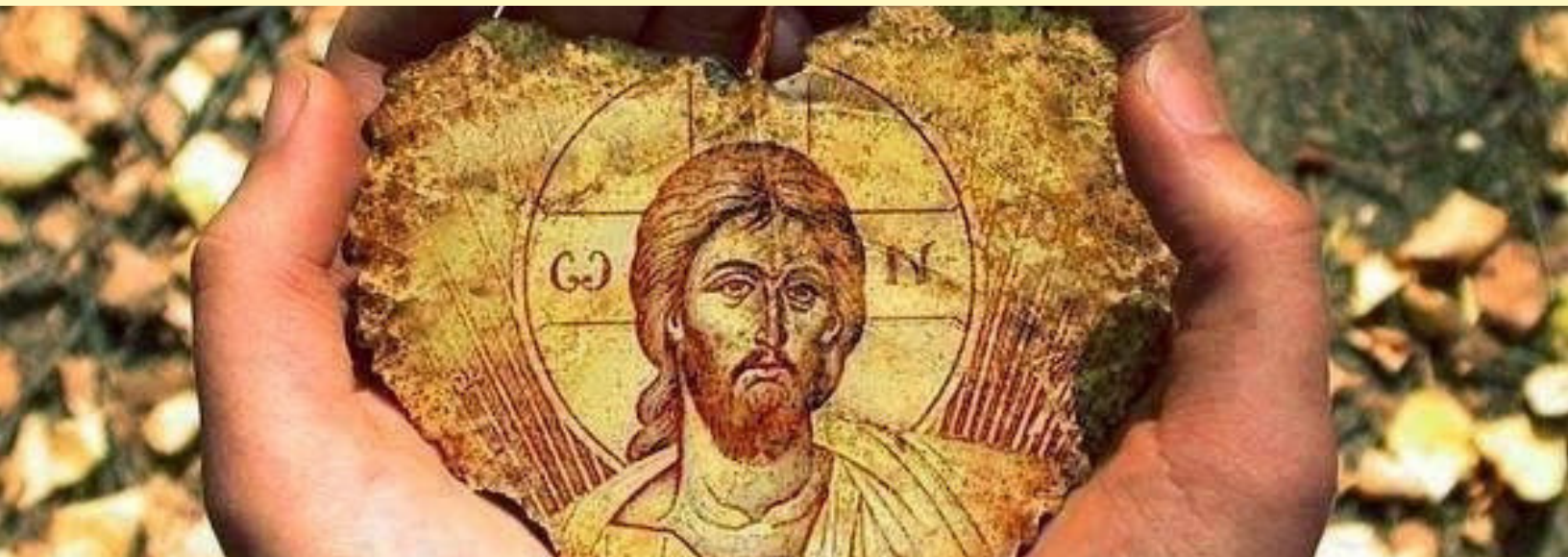


# Matters of the Heart

Orthodox reflections on faith and life



## 08 Blessed are the Merciful

The Lord our God does not delight in burnt offerings as much as He desires that we show mercy unto others. For mercy is a divine quality and compassion is what moved God to redeem humanity.

*Mercy is the sacrifice of love, an act of kindness to the children of God.*

In showing mercy, we grant the Lord His heart's desire. We allow the Holy Spirit to manifest itself within us. And we become the means by which God touches the lives of others. In showing mercy to others, we give comfort to the troubled, cheer to those in despair, and grace to those who merit judgement. Indeed great is the reward for those who show mercy, for the Lord will grant them an abundance of mercy on the day of judgement. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

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'...For I desire mercy and not sacrifice...'

Hosea 6:6

Also read:  
Matthew 5:7

*Lord grant that I may learn the richness of Your mercy towards me in order that I may do likewise with others.*