

**Love – Mercy – *Hesed***

Luke 1:57–80 (ESV)

<sup>57</sup> Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup> And her neighbors and relatives heard that **the Lord had shown great mercy to her**, and they rejoiced with her...

<sup>67</sup> And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

<sup>68</sup> “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people <sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> **to show the mercy promised** to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> **because of the tender mercy of our God**, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high <sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Mercy is used here in the context of the Old Testament word *Hesed* (250 times in OT)

*Hesed* – means proper covenant behavior, the solidarity which the partners in the covenant owe one another.

The covenant may be between equal individuals, or it may be made by one who is stronger as with our Father in Heaven. So in the context of the Old Testament, *hesed* stretches from loyalty to a covenant to kindness, mercy, pity.

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love (*Hesed*) endures forever.” Psalm 136:1 (ESV)

“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” Psalm 103:8 (ESV)

Loyal Love

Limitless Love

Trustworthy Love

Ever-enduring Love

Eternal Love

Colossians 3:12–14 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.