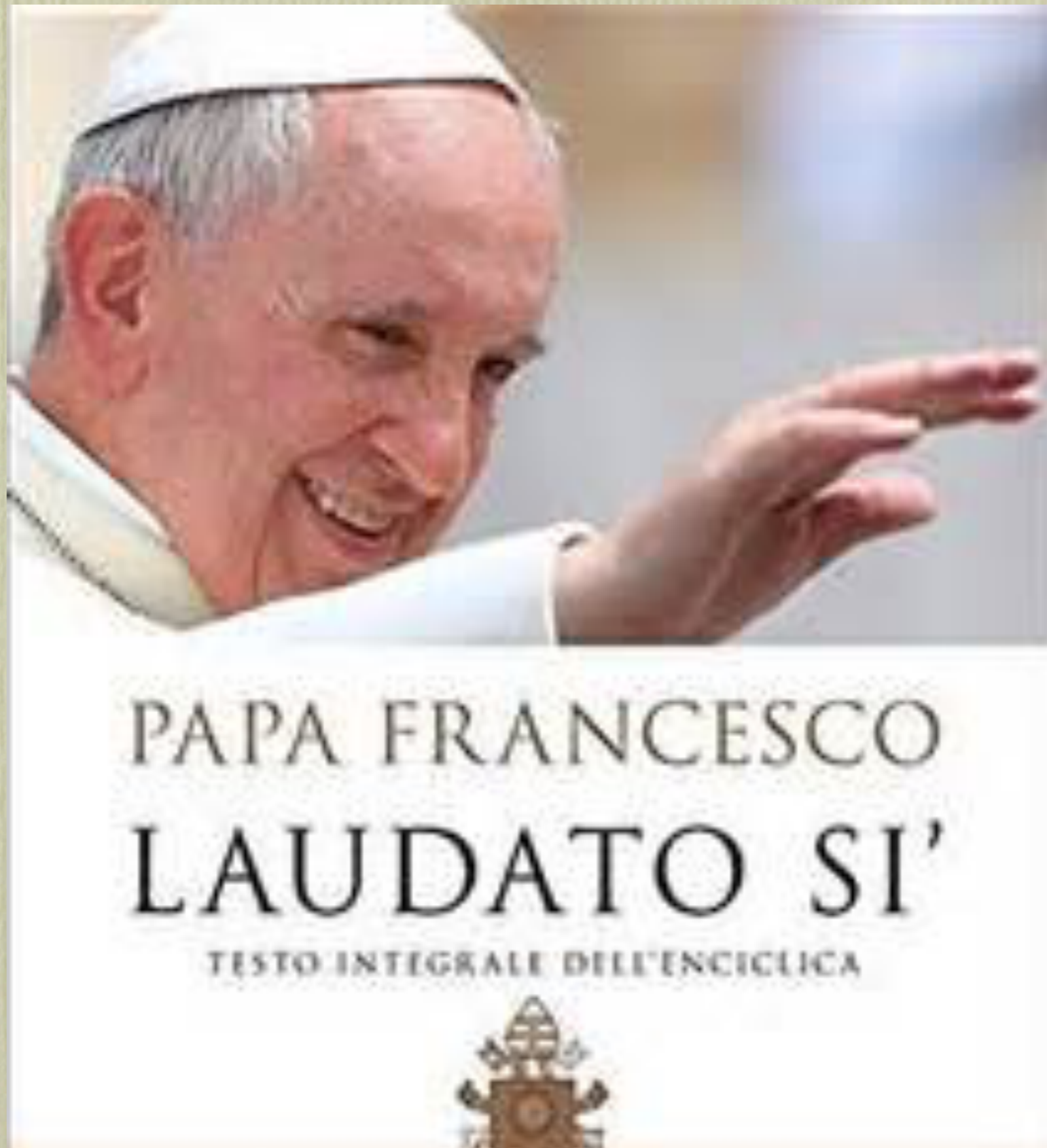
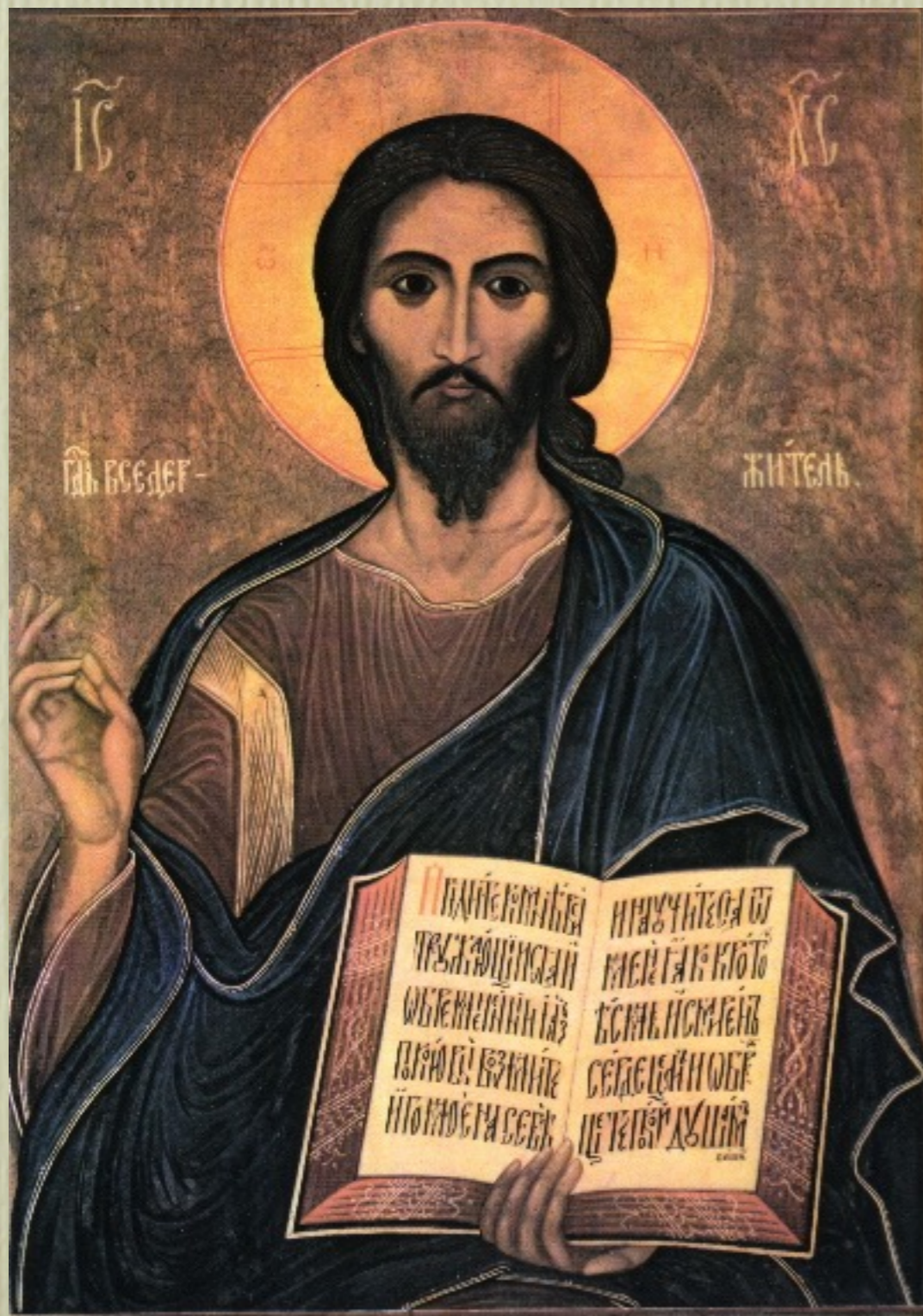


03. Background: Jesus' Mission to reveal a compassionate God





I will betroth you to
myself with tenderness
(Hosea 2:20)



John 10:10

I came that you may have life,
and have it abundantly.

Luke 12:49

I came to bring fire to the earth,
and how I wish it were already kindled!

John 1:18

No one has seen God.
It is God's only Son,
who is in the bosom of the Father
who has made God known.

Luke 4:16-21

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written [Isaiah 62:1-2]:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.”



“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

John 2:1-5

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”

And Jesus said to her,

“Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?”

My hour **has not now** come!

Has not my hour **now** come?

His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

[recall story]

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you want to, you can make me clean.” Filled with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and held him, and said to him, “Of course I want to. Be made clean!”
Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean ...

The leper went out and began to proclaim what Jesus had done, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in places where nobody dwelt. People, however, came to him from every quarter.

Mark 2:1-5

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them.

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,
“Son, **your sins are forgiven.**”

Mark 2:13-17

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them.

As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples – for there were many who followed him.

When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him – that she is a sinner."

Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak."

“A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?”

Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.” And Jesus said to him, “You have judged rightly.”

Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, must have been forgiven or she could not show such great love great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.”

Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”



Luke 7:22-23

Go and tell John what you have seen and heard:
the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,
the poor have good news brought to them.
And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.

Matthew 9:36-38

When Jesus saw the crowds,
he had **compassion** [σπλαγχνίζομαι] for them,
because they were harassed and helpless,
like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples,
'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest
to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Matthew 14:13-14

When Jesus heard what had happened to John,
he withdrew from there in a boat alone to a deserted place.
And when the crowds heard it,
they followed him by land from the cities.
And when he got out, he saw a large crowd
and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

- 1- A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.
- 2- Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.
- 3- So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.
- 3+ But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was **moved with compassion**. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.
- 2+ Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.
- 1+ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

15:18-19

‘I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; **treat me like one of your hired hands.**” ’

15:20-21

‘He set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was **filled with compassion**; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

Rembrandt



John 10:7-10

Jesus said to them,

“Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

All who came before me are thieves and bandits;
but the sheep did not listen to them.

I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved,
and will come in and go out and find pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I came that they may have life, and live to the full.”

John 10:11-15

I am the good (καλός) shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and the sheep are not his, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

The hired hand runs away

because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.

And I lay down my life for the sheep.

Mark 10:46-52

They come to Jericho.

As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out:

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me (ἐλέησόν με)!”

Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they call the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.”

So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.”

Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well (‘saved you’).”

Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

‘Mercy’ [ἐλεός]

Words in **blue** are all translated by ἐλεός in the Greek Bible

Isaiah 54:8, 10

‘With everlasting **love** [hesed] I will have **compassion** [raham] on you,
says the Lord, your Redeemer.

For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,

but my **steadfast love** [hesed] shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,
says the Lord, who has **compassion** [raham] on you.’



Luke 23:42

He was saying, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be **with me** in Paradise.”

‘One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear,
and at once blood and water came out’(John 19:34).



Moses striking the Rock
(Numbers 20:11)