

May 4, 2005

Flannery O'Connor "Wise Blood"

Compiled by Kirk Irwin

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities."

Psalm 103:8-10

"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Matthew 9:13

"For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.'"

Romans 9:15

"But God, who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)"

Ephesians 2:4&5

"Haze turned and looked at the house he was going into. It was little more than a shack but there was a warm glow in one front window. He went up on the front porch and put his eye to a convenient crack directly at a large white knee. After some time he moved away from the crack and tried the front door. It was not locked and he went into a small dark hall with a door on either side of it. The door to the left was cracked and let out a narrow shaft of light. He moved into the light and looked through the crack"

p 32 Wise Blood

"O'Connor's characters' resistance to grace will fail, and according to her fiction, their denial of its operation is as preposterous as denying the very ground beneath their feet"

David Dark p31, Everyday Apocalypse

Questions:

- How is Haze experiencing God's mercy in this situation?
- How is he resisting God's mercy?
- How do we resist His mercy?
- How do we submit to His mercy?
- What's this got to do with art?