

Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction 1

Part I: The Widening of God's Mercy in the Old Testament

ONE. Widening Through Creation 25

TWO. Mercy for God's People 37

THREE. Widening Justice 49

FOUR. "I Gave Them Statutes That Were Not Good" 61

FIVE. Widening the Borders 71

SIX. "I Knew That You Are a Gracious God, and Merciful" 84

SEVEN. "Besides Those Already Gathered" 95

Part II: The Widening of God's Mercy in the New Testament

EIGHT. Jesus Upsets People 111

NINE. Sabbath as a Time for Healing 122

- TEN. Mercy, Not Sacrifice 131
- ELEVEN. Mercy to Foreigners and Outsiders 140
- TWELVE. The Holy Spirit Begins to Change
the Church's Mind 152
- THIRTEEN. The Conscripted Apostle 162
- FOURTEEN. "Who Was I That I Could Block God?" 168
- FIFTEEN. The Jerusalem Council: Community
Discernment 176
- SIXTEEN. Mercy All the Way Down 188

**Part III: The Widening of God's Mercy
in the Present Day**

- SEVENTEEN. Moral Re-Vision: What We Must
Say About Human Sexuality 205

Epilogue 222

Notes 227

General Index 249

Index of Biblical References and Other Ancient Sources 261