

The Attributes of God ~ His Mercy

Intro: God's Mercy is His Patient Kindness whereby He withholds judgment and bestows blessings on sinners.

Psalm 145

- 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful;
Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.
9 The LORD is good to all,
And His mercies are over all His works.

Matthew 5:45

so that you may be sons of your Father
who is in heaven;
for He causes His sun to rise on *the evil and the good*,
and sends rain on *the righteous and the unrighteous*.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- How the LORD is described. Psalm 145:8-9
- Where God's mercies are. Psalm 145:9
- On whom God causes the sun to rise. Matthew 5:45
- On whom God sends the rain. Matthew 5:45

Interpretation:

Psalm 145:8-9 This is a song of praise written by King David. What significance

does David bring to the Psalm? _____

How is God's mercies 'over all His works'? _____

Matthew 5:45 How does this verse illustrate God's mercy? _____

Look up Matthew 5:44. From this context, what is the basis for God's mercy?

Note:

David is a man who knows the mercy of God. In 2 Samuel 11, he yields to temptation and commits adultery with Bathsheba, the beautiful wife of one of his top soldiers, and then has that soldier, Uriah the Hittite, killed in battle to hide that sin. David must have wondered if God would rescind His promise to him (2 Sam 7) because of this sin, but God forgives David and maintains His covenant with him, making David's words much more insightful.

Note:

Have you ever wondered why good things happen to bad people? Why evil people succeed? In short, the answer is God's mercy.

During this era, God's mercy extends to everyone, both the righteous and the unrighteous. But when Jesus returns, mercy ends, and judgment is come.

The Attributes of God ~ His Mercy (cont)

Genesis 18:32

Then he said,
"Oh may the Lord not be angry,
and I shall speak only this once;
suppose ten are found there?"
And He said,
"I will not destroy *it* on account of the ten."

Psalms 51:1

For the choir director. A Psalm of David,
when Nathan the prophet came to him,
after he had gone in to Bathsheba.
Be gracious to me, O God,
according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of Your compassion
blot out my transgressions.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- On account of how many (righteous) God did not destroy (Sodom & Gomorrah). *Genesis 18:32*
- According to what David asked God to be gracious.
- According to what David asks God for forgiveness.

Psalm 51:1

Interpretation:

Genesis 18:32 Why do you think God was willing to spare Sodom on account of only

ten righteous people? _____

What significance might this have for us today? _____

Psalms 51:1 What had David done to cause him to write this Psalm? _____

What do the following mean?

'gracious': _____

'lovingkindness': _____

'compassion': _____

What is their significance here? _____

Note:

When you read this account in *Genesis 18:32-33*, you cannot help but be amazed both at Abraham's bargaining boldness and God's mercy. That God was willing to spare an extremely immoral society for the sake of a few righteous people reveals Him as merciful. Unfortunately for the Sodomites, even ten could not be found.

Note:

The three words which David incorporates in his plea for forgiveness are all different synonyms of the word 'mercy', and rightly so. For when one comes before the Holy God under conviction of sin, it is His mercy, not His grace, that one appeals to.

It has been said that grace is God giving to us what we do not deserve while mercy is God not giving to us what we *do* deserve. While the sinner deserves punishment, Mercy withholds that judgment.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about *God's Mercy*?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Mercy of God restrains His Righteous Judgment and gives the undeserving the opportunity to respond to His Grace. Were it not for God's Mercy, we would all have been destroyed in Adam the moment he sinned. But God's mercy toward the unrighteous is *not* without end, for there will come a time when sin's consequence will be required and all who are without God's Grace in Christ will pay the just recompense, the everlasting punishment which God's Mercy withheld until the right time.

God is Merciful
He is patient toward the sinner!