KNOWING GOD

LESSON 14

Title: The Mercy of God

Text: Psalm 103:1-17, James 5:11

1. **Review:**
   1. Through any circumstance of difficulty, settle first that God is just.
   2. It’s not as if something may arise and God would be faced with a decision to do right or to be unjust. Justice doesn’t demand He act justly; His nature demands it. He is who He is because of Himself, not because of some outside standard.
   3. Never look at a situation and say, “Here is what God must do, justice demands it.”
2. **Mercy Defined and Explained.**
   1. Defined:
      1. The outward manifestations of pity.
      2. “Mercy is that eternal principle of God’s nature which leads Him to seek the temporal good and eternal salvation of those who have opposed themselves to His will.” ––Bancroft
      3. Words nearly synonyms with mercy: pity, compassion, long-suffering, loving kindness.
   2. Explained:
      1. Mercy ought to be a strong characteristic in a marriage or a close friendship.
      2. Mercy assumes a need on the part of him who receives it and resources adequate to meet that need on the part of Him that shows it. (Hebrews 4:16)
      3. Psalm 103:4,8-14,17. These verses explain His mercy well.
         1. V. 8 – He is gracious and slow to anger; merciful.
         2. V. 9-12 – He does not deal with us in anger and wrath as our sins deserve.
         3. V. 13-14 – He knows our frailties and has parental-like pity on us.
3. **Psalm 106: The Classic Example of God’s Mercy.**
   1. Israel’s exodus from Egypt and actions following show the amazing mercy of God.
      1. Psalm 106:1 – The purpose of the Psalm is to give emphasis to the mercy of the Lord.
      2. V. 6-8 – They sinned at the Red Sea. “Nevertheless He saved them.” That is mercy. They should have been destroyed.
      3. Notice v. 13 – “They soon forgot His works.” Note: The Jews complained from the Red Sea on; yet, God gave them manna from heaven, water from the rock, quail to eat, protection from their enemies, longevity to their shoes and clothes and on and on. That is mercy!
4. **God’s Mercy and You.**
   1. Lamentations 3:22,23 – You and I are not consumed because of the Lord’s mercy!
   2. Each of us could testify:
      1. I’ve pulled a Jonah.
      2. I’ve used deceit like Jacob.
      3. I’ve been a big mouth like Peter.
      4. I’ve feared people like Saul.
      5. I’ve tried to act in my own strength like Samson; and on and on.
   3. Yet, we see God’s willingness to forgive us and to restore us to a place of use for His Kingdom. That is mercy!
5. **Conclusion: Turn to Jesus for Mercy.** 
   1. Remember in our explanation of mercy, it implies a need and the one who bestows mercy must have the resources and compassion to meet the need.
   2. Hebrews 4:15,16 – When weakness and sin put us in need, we can go to the throne confident that we may obtain mercy.