



WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

TEACHING THE WORD. DOING THE WORK. TOUCHING THE WORLD.

How Things Work, Part 5

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, July 11, 2021

Text: James 1:22-25

Introduction Summary

One way things work is through God's abundant mercy. In this lesson we will see how God loves us so much that He offers His mercy to us even though we don't deserve it. We need mercy when we've sinned, and only God can be merciful and forgive us and restore us to Himself.

- I. Sovereign means supreme ruler, possessing supreme power.
 - A. Sovereignty is supreme power or authority, someone in a self-governing state.
 - B. God has chosen to place limits on Himself.
 - C. God has magnified His Word above His name (Psa. 138:2).
 - D. God set the rainbow as a reminder of His promise (Gen. 9:11-16).
 - E. He limits Himself to what He has said.
 - F. This covenant is an eternal contract between God and Abraham; it extends to Abraham's seed (Gen. 17:4,7; Gal. 3:29).
 - G. Sin entered in; Abraham talks to God about their covenant (Gen. 18:16-25).
 - H. The covenant did not restrict God from showing mercy.
- II. *Good* means *mercy* (Rom. 9:15,18). Mercy is compassion. It's only as God chooses.
 - A. Ten of the spies were *ungrateful* and had a bad attitude (Num. 14:1-3).
 - B. God wanted to destroy them because of their continual unbelief (Num. 14:11-12).
 - C. Moses intercedes for them (Num. 14:13-19).
 - D. God pardons them because of Moses' words (Num. 14:20).
 - E. God's response was mercy, with limits (Num. 14:21-23).
 - F. Only Joshua and Caleb will enter the promised land (Num. 14:24).
 - G. Their lack of faith produced limits on God's mercy.
 - H. God can change His mind concerning His people (Psa. 135:14).
 - I. God turns back His anger because of mercy (Psa. 7:11-13).
- III. In Christ, a change took place. God restored mankind to Himself by Jesus Christ.
 - A. God is no longer angry with you (2 Cor. 5:17-21). Be reconciled to Him.
 - B. Only the Lord Jesus died for you. Be reconciled to Him!
 - C. God wanted to show the world mercy.
- IV. God is the Judge of all (Heb. 12:23). A judge has the authority to punish or forgive.
 - A. Now, Jesus has been given judgeship/authority (2 Tim. 4:1).
 - B. God shall judge according to certain guidelines (Rom. 2:16).
 - C. Jesus is the only way to Heaven. It matters that you receive Jesus as Lord.
- V. Mercy is compassion/forgiveness shown by someone with power to punish or harm.
 - A. God's mercy is extended toward them that fear Him (Psa. 103:8,11).

- B. God is merciful to those who call upon Him (Psa. 86:5).
- C. His anger wasn't to them who fear Him (Prov. 16:6,7).
- D. Mercy is available from generation to generation (Luke 1:50, 54, 55, 72).
 - 1. My children have mercy extended to them because their parents love God.
 - 2. Serve God if you love your children.
 - 3. God will help you. *Holpen* means *help* (Luke 1:54; Heb. 4:14-16).
 - 4. He gives you power to help you out of any problem.
 - 5. Covenant and mercy operate together (Luke 1:71-74).
 - 6. We ought to be grateful for God's mercy. After God brought you through the pandemic, you should not stay home, instead of going to church.
- E. Faith connects covenant and mercy (Pet. 1:3-5).
 - 1. *Lively hope* means a *hope that is for a lifetime* (Pet. 1:3).
 - 2. Christians have an inheritance that is pure and will not fade away (Pet. 1:4).
 - 3. You are kept by God's supernatural ability through the door of faith (Pet. 1:5).
 - 4. Mercy is ready (Pet. 1:5).
- F. In Jesus' ministry, many who came to Him to be healed asked for their healing based on covenant mercy. Some believed He was just a healing priest, and some would acknowledge that He was the Son of David or Messiah. But many times, some asked based on mercy alone and He granted their healings (Mat. 5:7). Jesus acted on His own teachings. Some came on the pure basis of faith. Others came with limited faith mixed with compassion/mercy.
- G. Imagine a parent with a child like this (Mark 9:17-27).
 - 1. He addressed Jesus as *Master* or *Teacher* (Mark 9:22).
 - 2. Jesus said, if you can believe, all things are possible (Mark 9:23).
 - 3. The man was converted. He now addresses Jesus as "Lord!" (Mark 9:24).
 - 4. This man was not a faith giant (Mark 9:17-27).
 - 5. The man had faith as a grain of a mustard seed (Mat. 17:20).
 - 6. Jesus delivered his son (Mark 9:25-27).
 - 7. Mercy was connected to that man and mercy is connected to you.
- VI. John the Baptist was sent to point people to Jesus (Luke 1:76-79).
 - A. God always sends a minister to lead you to Jesus.
 - B. At the age of only 22 years, God called me to open a church. I asked Him, "Why me?" He said, "I asked others and they refused. Six women asked Me to raise up a church that would have a teacher like you, and I'm answering their prayer."
 - C. A minister is a gift to believers to give light and guide their feet toward peace.
 - D. John led them to Jesus (John 1:29-34). My job is to lead you to Jesus.
 - E. This was the end of John's ministry (John 1:29). Some ministries have a beginning and an ending.
 - F. Follow the Holy Ghost.

Closing Summary

Mercy is something we don't deserve. We ought to be grateful to God, because He loves us. God deserves the highest praise all the days of our life.