

His GREAT MERCY

The Ark (Part 2)

Exodus 25:17-22

Psalm 51:1-17; Luke 18:9-14



20 August 2023

Pressing Forward

- Catechism
- Memory/Meditation

Eternal Purpose

What We Have Learned

- A walk through the Tabernacle

Inside the Ark

- The Law (Deuteronomy 31:25-27)
 - God's Law is TRUTH. (Psalm 119:160, 142)
 - Christ came to honor and magnify the Law of God. (Isaiah 42:21)
- Manna (Exodus 16)
 - Christ, the Bread from Heaven (John 6:31-58)
- Aaron's Rod (Numbers 16-17)
 - Christ, the Resurrected One (Romans 4:25; 6:5)

The Touch and Looking Inside (1 Samuel 6; 2 Samuel 6)

The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)

- Innocent Substitute bearing the sins of the many.
- Incense - Hebrews 9:2-4
- **Blood** of a bull; **Blood** of one goat; the Scapegoat - **BUT** - Hebrews 10:4.
- **BUT** - Hebrews 9:12!

On Top of the Ark - A LID - The Mercy "Seat"

- **Details, Details, Details**
- Its Construction - **ONE PIECE of GOLD**
- Two Cherubim: Powerful angelic beings doing the will of God.
- Its Position - **on top of the ARK**; "covering the Law"
- This is where "**TRUTH and MERCY**" met. (Psalm 85:10)
 - ★ **Truth and mercy are never separated in God.** (Psalm 89:14; 100:5)
- **Purpose:** Place of **fellowship** between God and His people. (Exodus 25:22)

BLOOD, BLOOD, BLOOD (Hebrews 9:22; 10:18)

- In the Garden
- In Abel's Sacrifice
- In Noah's Sacrifice
- At the Exodus
- Here at God's Meeting place

MERCY: Foundation of God's Covenant (Hebrews 8:10-12)

- Seven Promises - the last two are the foundation of His Covenant
 - **"I will be merciful"** - PROPITIATION (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10)
 - Appeasement of God's anger and wrath toward sinners.
 - ★ **Same word:** Romans 3:25 (propitiation) and Hebrews 9:5 (mercy seat)
 - Mercy comes through PROPITIATION.
 - Mercy only comes by the blood of God's sacrifice of His own Son.
 - ★ **the precious blood of Christ** - its value/worth.
 - **"I will remember their sins no more"** - PARDON
 - READ CAREFULLY: Isaiah 43:22-25; 48:8-11
 - **FOR MY NAME SAKE! NOT OURS!** - Eternal Purpose - Great is His Faithfulness. (1 John 2:12)

Understanding God's Mercy (1 Timothy 1:13-16)

- A low view of God will give us a low view of His mercy. (And His love, grace, and salvation) - Psalm 50:16-23
- To understand the mercy of God one must understand their sins.
 - Sin is **LAWLESSNESS**. (1 John 3:4) Repentance is being obedient to God's commands/Law/Word.
 - Sin is **ANY** disobedience to God's commands/demands.
 - To despise God's Law/Word is to despise God Himself.
 - Leviticus 26:14-18
 - 2 Samuel 12:9-10
 - ALL sin is against God. (Psalm 51:4)
- A low view of our sins will give us a very, very low view of God's mercy.
- To understand the mercy of God one must understand God's holy anger and wrath.
- A low view of God's anger and wrath will give us a very low view of God's mercy.
- A low view of God's justice will give us a low view of God's mercy.
- God's mercy is a **strong motivator** to live in obedience to His commandments. (Romans 2:4)
- (Micah 7:18) "Who is a God like You, pardoning sin . . . who delights in mercy."
BUT . . .
- To whom God, our Law-Giver and Judge, gives His mercy. (Romans 9:18, 22-23; Ephesians 2:1-4; Psalm 103:11, 17; Exodus 20:6; 34:6; Deut 5:10; 7:9)
 - All mankind are **GUILTY**.

- One can do nothing to deserve God's mercy.
- Mercy belongs to God and He gives it as He pleases.
- God does not give mercy to all. MEDITATE.
- **The heinous sin of taking God's mercy for granted.**

Difference Between God's Mercy and Man's Mercy

- A human judge sins when giving mercy. He ignores the Law that he SWORE to uphold!
- God CANNOT and WILL NOT ignore His Law. His Law must be fulfilled. Every sin MUST be paid for in order to satisfy God's justice.
- God DEMANDS that ONLY DEATH of the sinner will satisfy His justice. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission. (Hebrews 9:22)
- God planned for Christ to become the SURETY of His people before time began. (Hebrews 10:7; 7:22; Isaiah 53:6)

A Parable: Lord, Have Mercy (Luke 18:9-14) Two men . . .

- BOTH came to the Temple to pray. ➤ BOTH spoke their prayers to GOD.
- **BUT** only ONE was JUSTIFIED (declared righteous).
- **The Pharisee** (Luke 18:11-12)
 - The Pharisee was a RELIGIOUS man.
 - The Pharisee was a RESPECTABLE man in the community and Temple.
 - The Pharisee fasted twice a week and tithed all that God had given him.
 - The Pharisee appeared to be a RIGHTEOUS man.
 - The Pharisee was proud of who he was.
 - The Pharisee boasted about himself.
- **The GREAT Sin of the Pharisee**
 - The greatest sin of this Pharisee was that he compared himself with others – “God, I thank You that I am not like other men . . .” **PRIDE.**
 - He **assumed** that in God's sight he was better than other men.
 - He did not consider that a sin of a true believer is a much more serious matter than a sin of an unbeliever. (Luke 12:48)
 - He EXALTED himself! ➤ He TRUSTED in himself!
 - He DESPISED others! ➤ He DID KNOW GOD!
- **The Tax Collector's Prayer** (Luke 18:13)
 - The **FIRST** word is “**GOD**”, the **LAST** word is “**the SINNER**” and “**MERCY**” is in between. (The definite article is in the Greek. See 1 Timothy 1:15)
 - The tax collector understood that he was a SINNER in the sight of God. Consider Genesis 6:5.
 - The tax collector understood that he was no better than any one else. (See 1 Corinthians 4:7; 15:10)
 - The tax collector understood the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23a)

- The tax collector understood that GOD was HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.
 - The tax collector understood: 1) Mercy belongs to God; 2) God is sovereign to whom He gives mercy. (Romans 9:18)
 - The tax collector compared himself to GOD and not others. (Matthew 5:48)
 - The tax collector came in HUMILITY to God.
 - ★ Humility is NOT thinking lowly of oneself. Humility is not thinking of yourself at all. (Consider Luke 9:23)
 - The tax collector's sin BOTHERED him GREATLY.
 - The more we understand GOD and His LOVE the MORE hateful, distasteful, abominable, corrupt, ugly, wretched, polluted, etc. becomes even the "least" of our sins.
 - MERCY was **EVERYTHING** to this sinner!!
 - **BUT** this sinner understood that before God can show Himself merciful to any sinner He **must** receive a **full** satisfaction for His justice.
 - The tax collector understood that what he was asking for was NOT CHEAP!
 - The tax collector asked for NOTHING but MERCY – he didn't even ask of GRACE.
 - **MERCY:** Not receiving what we deserve — God's wrath.
 - **GRACE:** Receive what we do not deserve — God's love.
- The verdict: The tax collector went home JUSTIFIED.

Christ Is the Mercy Seat

- Mercy and truth come together in CHRIST alone!! (John 1:17)
- (John 14:6) Christ is the MEETING PLACE with God.
- (Hebrews 9:12) It is HIS blood - God's promise still stands - "When I see the blood I will pass over!" (Exodus 12:13) Christ laid down His life, spilled His blood for ALL that the Father had given Him! (John 17:2-3; 10:11, 14, 26-29)
- (Matthew 9:13) Christ did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to **repentance**. He came to call them back to the Law!!!! He came to call His people to honor God by honoring His Law. (Isaiah 42:21)

THEREFORE LET US COME . . . (Hebrews 4:16)

- We are commanded to COME (Present Tense) to God's throne of GRACE *in order that* we may obtain mercy! NOT to come daily is to be arrogant, unthankful, and to take God's mercy for granted.

GOD's MERCY is no small thing!

God's mercies are new every morning!

(Lamentation 3:23)

MEDITATE! (On all of chapter 3)