

The Mercy Of God

I would like to share a word the Lord put in my heart about the mercy of God. When the LORD passed by Moses in the cleft of the rock, He proclaimed, “The Lord God, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness (mercy) and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.” (Exo 34:6,7) I know I have shared from this verse recently, but the Lord seems to keep on revealing to me more fully this revelation of God’s character. It is interesting to take note that the first thing the Lord cried out was that He is compassionate and gracious.

In the book of first Samuel, Israel cried out to Samuel to give them a king like the other nations. This was evil in the sight of Samuel and God said they were rejecting Him from being king over them. (1 Sam 8:7) When Samuel addressed the people of God and Saul was confirmed as king in chapter twelve, Samuel said to them, “Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, *yet* do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.” (1 Sam 12:20) We see here God’s heart for His people to turn from their wicked ways and serve Him with all their hearts. Even though they had done such grievous things in the Lord eyes, His desire was for them to repent and come follow Him. Jesus said, “I did not come to condemn the world, but to save the world.” (Jn 12:47) We hear this same cry of God’s heart in Isaiah chapter fifty-five: “Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him *return* to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” (Isa 55:7)

The Lord is a loving God who desires that none should perish; yet He is also a “jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate [Him].” (Exo 20:5) He is just, and will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. “Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king shall be swept away.” (1 Sam 12:24,25)

I can honestly testify of God’s mercy and kindness in my own life. He is true to His word and His kindness leads us to repentance. (Rom 2:4) Our father in heaven told Solomon, “if My people who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chr 7:14) Let us hearken to the call of God and get our hearts right before Him and begin to seek Him with ALL our hearts.

Lord, let us not be like Israel, who heard You say, “in repentance and rest you will be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength;” but were not be willing. (Isa 30:15) It is a broken spirit and a contrite heart that He will not despise. (Psa 51:17) Those who are “humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at His word,” these are the ones He will look to. (Isa 66:2) Let us continue in the fear of God and believe in His mercy towards those who “love Him and keep His commandments.” (Deut 7:9)

Amen.