

Aug 14, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Being imperfect emphasizes our dependence on God's mercy

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Thank You, Father, for Your new and never failing mercies. Forgive me for the times I deny You and fail others, and teach me to run to You for Your overflowing compassion.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
22 Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness
(Lam 3:22-23 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Sept 14, 2013)

Series: Toward A New Salvation

UNIT: Life on God's Terms

NEXT WEEK

Grafted into the Promise

(Rom 11:11-24)

Dependent on God's Mercy Rom 9:6-18

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews how all of mankind is **Dependent on God's Mercy**. The **study's aim** is to understand how all individuals are dependent on the mercy of God and realize that this applies to us personally. The **study's application** is to adjust our thinking, words, and actions to acknowledge our dependence on God's mercy.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

There is an old saying that states, "God has no grandchildren." The simple meaning is that every person is responsible to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for himself. We dare not presume that we are saved because our parents are believers, or because we have attended church, or because we have received ordinances or sacraments, or because we have done any number of other religious deeds or acts. Each of us must receive the mercy of salvation. We are dependent on such mercy. God must show it to us, and we must receive it or we are lost. Rom 9:18 points to the mystery of God's sovereignty over salvation. God has mercy on whom He has mercy and hardens whom He hardens. It is a difficult saying but one that urgently points all people to seek the mercy of God. Without it, we are lost. We are not born into salvation; we must receive it by the mercy of God. A text such as this leads us to ponder some deep theological truths. First, we see the reality of human depravity and unbelief. Sinful hearts are hard. God takes no blame for this even though He may work in His sovereign majesty with such hearts. The case of Pharaoh is cited in Romans 9:17. Pharaoh was deeply opposed to the faith of Israel, and God used His hardness of heart to display His own glory. What a sobering thought—to be exposed to the miracles of God and yet remain hard-hearted and unbelieving! Every person should take heed and leave this common and very tempting pathway. Next, we see the necessity of God's mercy in salvation. We must become the children of God through saving faith. And this can happen only through the mercy of God as He opens our hearts to see the Lord Jesus and believe in Him. Mercy is found in Christ, who shed His blood for sinners. By faith we receive Him and are born anew. This takes us from the realm of sin and unbelief as we receive the gift of eternal life. Yes, God has no grandchildren. All men must be urged to receive God's mercy for themselves. Finally, we see that however God works in mercy and hardening, there is no ultimate unfairness toward any person (Rom. 9:14). God's ways are mysterious in these matters, but in no way is it proper to conclude that somehow we or anyone else has been treated unfairly by God. It just is not so. And any excuse made along this line will never be accepted. God is sovereign in His mercy; we are guilty in our depravity and unbelief. Such guilt deserves damnation. Hence we are dependent on God's mercy, and we must seek it until we find it. So the clear response to the great theological truths embedded in this powerful text is to cry out to God for His mercy. If we are dependent on mercy in this way, what are we waiting for? What is anyone waiting for? We must have God's mercy, so we must cry out for it and teach others to do so. Mercy brings the salvation of God. Mercy brings the atonement of Jesus. Mercy brings the grace of God. Mercy is what we need. Let us teach all men everywhere to cry out for God's mercy so that they might be saved.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Need for Mercy to Obtain God's Promises (Rom 9:6-13)

Promises through God's Word (6-8)

Promises through the Bible as spoken to Abraham (Gal 3:16)

Promises through the Bible that were fulfilled through Jesus (Matt 5:17)

Promises through the Bible that Jesus will eternally rule (Gen 49:10)

Promises through the Bible that Jesus is God's salvation (Luke 3:6)

Promises through the Bible that state that all promises of God are yes through Jesus (2 Cor 1:20)

Promises made with the Divine power (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Promises that are only being completely satisfied in the present age (Heb 11:13-16)

Promises of an eternal life (1 John 2:24-25)

Promises to those of God's choosing (9-13)

Chosen to be a royal priesthood belonging to God (1 Peter 2:9)

Chosen out of the world so that we belong to God (John 15:19)

Chosen as a people for God Himself (Acts 15:14)

Chosen to be justified and glorified (Rom 8:30)

Chosen to be holy and blameless (Eph 1:4)

Chosen through God's grace and for His purpose (2 Tim 1:9)

Chosen through God's foreknowledge and the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:1-2)

Need for Mercy Because of God's Sovereignty (Rom 9:14-18)

Sovereignty of a righteous God (14)

God is righteous in all His ways (Ps 145:17)

God's righteousness is part of the foundation of His throne (Ps 89:14)

God's righteousness is proclaimed by the heavens (Ps 50:6)

God works in righteousness (Ps 103:6)

God's righteousness is like a mighty mountain (Ps 36:6)

God's right hand is filled with righteousness (Ps 48:10)

Sovereignty of a compassionate God (15-16)

God is compassionate because men are helpless and need a shepherd (Matt 9:36)

God is compassionate because man needs healing (Matt 14:14)

God is compassionate because man is weak and hungry (Matt 15:32)

God is compassionate because He is always willing to help (Mark 1:41)

God is compassionate because man needs teaching (Mark 6:34)

God is compassionate because God longs to be man's refuge (Matt 23:37)

Sovereignty of an Almighty God (17-18)

God is Almighty because all things are possible for God (Matt 19:26)

God is Almighty because He is majestic in power (Ex 15:6-8)

God is Almighty because of His greatness and mighty deeds (Deut 3:24)

God is Almighty because He brings to life and puts to death (Deut 32:39)

God is Almighty because He is great and powerful (1 Chron 29:11)

God is an Almighty God (Ps 89:8)

God is Almighty because He is endued with power (Ps 89:13)