

Mar 26, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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God's Merciful Love Joel 2:12-13, 18-19, 28-32

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson helps us to recognize that God's mercy is an important part of **God's Merciful Love**. The study's aim is to gain a greater appreciation for the long-suffering God shows to us when we sin. The study's application is to forsake any known sin and come back to God in response to His mercy.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Those who live in this world as unbelievers seem to think they can live life apart from God. Solomon tested this worldview (see the book of Ecclesiastes), trying everything in his realm of political power and financial possibility. After an exhaustive search for meaning to life without God, Solomon decided that "all is vanity" (12:8) apart from Him. So far God has continued to allow humans to experiment with world-views, but the day is coming when He will put that to a stop and will take direct control of all circumstances. It is the time that biblical authors refer to as the "Day of the Lord," which is the theme of Joel's book. There are differences of opinion as to the beginning of this day, but we know that the time of Jesus' return will be followed by the fulfillment of a great deal of prophecy. Were it not for God's merciful love, all mankind would be destroyed in those coming days. Joel portrays the destruction resulting from a locust invasion, then moves into a discussion of how much more difficult times will be during the future Day of the Lord. Most of us parents have faced the situation of a child who went against our wishes on certain matters. The waywardness may have been momentary, for a few days, weeks or months, or it may have lasted for years. For some of us, the situation may still be ongoing. What is or should be our attitude toward our wayward children? We may be tempted to cut them off and break our relationship with them. However, that is not how the Lord responds to us when we are wayward. When we have sinned, He invites us to come back and be restored to the place of fellowship and blessing. As He did with Israel, the Lord calls us to turn from our sinful ways and come back to Him. John wrote to the church in Ephesus, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works" (Rev. 2:5). In essence he said to the believers, "Come back to the Lord." Each of us should examine ourselves to see whether we have grown lax in some part of our spiritual lives. Do some honest self-evaluation about areas in which we may need to return to the Lord. The Lord is merciful, but He will not allow us to continue in waywardness without suffering consequences. Come back to Him now.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God is greater than anything that happens to us

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:
God's fresh mercies can break into our lives at any moment. They are always there, and we see them when we live with childlike expectation—watching and waiting for what only He can do

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You
(Ps 63:3 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 30, 2017)

Series: The Love of God
UNIT: The Work of God's Love

NEXT WEEK
Shepherding Love
(Ps 23:1-6)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Need for God's Merciful Love (Joel 2:12-13. 18-19)

Need of repentance

The time of repentance (12)

Repent during the times that God can be found and He is near (Isa 55:6-7)

Repent now because the Kingdom of Heaven is near (Matt 4:17)

Repent so that the times of refreshing can come (Acts 3:19)

Repent because the times of ignorance has passed (Acts 17:30)

Repent during the times of earthly life because after that it will be impossible (Luke 16:27-31)

The way of repentance (13)

The way of repentance through inward brokenness (Ps 51:17)

The way of repentance through the turning of the heart (Heb 3:12-15)

The way of repentance through outward signs (Matt 3:8)

The way of repentance accompanied by humility (2 Chron 7:14)

Response to Repentance

Repentance that leads to God's mercy (18)

God's mercy keeps God from putting an end to the wicked (Neh 9:29-31)

God's mercy sometimes causes Him to relent (Ps 106:45)

God's mercy empowers perseverance (James 5:11)

God's mercy makes Christians a people of God (1 Peter 2:10)

Repentance that leads to God's provisions (19)

Provisions through God using others (2 Cor 8:14)

Provisions through God's supplying directly (2 Cor 9:10)

Provisions of faith (1 Thess 3:10)

Provisions that should evoke thanksgiving to God (2 Cor 9:12)

Provisions through God's glorious riches (Phil 4:19)

The Provision of God's Merciful Love (Joel 2:28-32)

Provision of the indwelling Holy Spirit (28)

An indwelling that God not only promised, but also fulfilled (Acts 2:1-4)

Through the indwelling Spirit, a reconciled relationship is received (Col 1:21-22)

Through the indwelling Spirit, the constant presence of God is a result (1 Cor 3:16)

Result of repentance is the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

Provision of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (29)

God's gifts are irrevocable (Rom 11:29)

God gives gifts according to His grace (Rom 12:6)

There are the gifts of ministering and teaching (Rom 12:7)

There are the gifts of exhortation, giving, leading, and showing mercy (Rom 12:8)

All of God's gifts are from the same Spirit for the profit of all (1 Cor 12:4-7)

There are the gifts of the word of wisdom and knowledge (1 Cor 12:8)

There are the gifts of faith and healings (1 Cor 12:9)

There are the gifts of the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues (1 Cor 12:10)

There are the gifts given to the Church (1 Cor 12:28)

Provision of God's wonders (30-31)

Wonders that are to be remembered (Ps 111:4)

Wonders that God declares (Ps 77:14)

Wonders that are done in the deep (Ps 107:24)

Wonders that are done by God alone (Ps 136:4)

Provision of God's deliverance (32)

Deliverance from Satan (Matt 6:13)

Deliverance from deadly perils (2 Cor 1:10)

Deliverance from troubles (Ps 34:19)

Deliverance from trials (2 Peter 2:9)

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