

Mar 25, 2018



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

Seeking His Face 2 Chronicles 7:12-22

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson leads to the understanding of God's statement about **Seeking His Face**. The **study's aim** is to seek God's face as we should, so we will be blessed. The **study's application** is to make it a daily practice to seek God's face.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Last week we looked at Solomon's prayer in dedicating the newly built temple to the Lord, a prayer that contained many requests for forgiveness and restoration from anticipated future lapses into sin. This week we look at God's reply to Solomon, an answer that came to him during the night. Solomon had been concerned that his people would repeatedly stray from obedience to the Lord and sought assurance that they would not be cast aside or destroyed. God's reply in 2 Chronicles 7:14 contains an assurance of restoration and the way to obtain that restoration. It is both a promise and an invitation. The first element of reassurance is that no matter what lapses or transgressions may lie in Israel's future, God still considers them "my people," the people who "are called by my name." Israel indeed committed the most atrocious breaches of faithfulness over their history, but God never abandoned them in favor of a different people. He would severely discipline them, but He never wrote them off. They remained His even when they walked far from Him. When people realize they have fallen out of divine fellowship, they often think in terms of elaborate works or rituals they might perform to regain it. Israel was no exception, often assuming that an impressive display of sacrifices was the key to winning God's favor (cf. Mic. 6:6-7). In direct contrast, God looked for a genuine change of heart. This change of heart was seen in four basic actions. Far from carrying out extravagant rituals, the people were simply to "humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways." Humility is the first step in returning to God's favor, for without it there can be no true recognition of having done wrong. Prayer and seeking God's face describe turning to Him and reestablishing the broken relationship. Turning from wickedness is the essential mark of true repentance and the desire to please Him again. What God wanted from His wayward people was far simpler than an extensive program of sacrifice and ritual but at the same time much more difficult. Israel often preferred the complicated sacrificial route, for the simple reason that they did not want to change their hearts. True heart change is inconvenient, disruptive, and hard. In fact, it is impossible without God's work within, and we often would rather substitute an external action that leaves our inward captivity with sin alone. Yet God will accept nothing less than a transformed heart and a desire to be genuinely pleasing to Him. When we recognize that this is truly what we need, He pours out His blessing. He hears our prayers, forgives our sin, and brings healing into our lives. For Israel, this meant healing the land so that it bore fruit in rich harvests. For us, the end of spiritual famine and drought may be more in line with what we can expect. Whatever form the restoration takes, it starts with a recognition of where we have gone off the rails and a sincere desire to turn back

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God's love for us is as expansive as the open arms of Christ on the cross

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:
It's good to look away from our fears and search our heavenly Father's face. So know this: When your Father looks at you, He has a great big smile on His face. You're very safe

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved
(Ps 80:3 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 10, 2017)

Series: Acknowledging God
UNIT: All Glory and Honor
NEXT WEEK
He Has Risen
(Luke 24:1-12, 30-35)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Blessing of Seeking God's Face (2 Chron 7:12-18)

Blessing of being in God's presence (12)

In God's presence to learn (Deut 4:9-11)

In God's presence to hear His word (Deut 31:10-12)

In God's presence to agree with His word (Neh 8:2-6)

In God's presence to bind together in agreement and oath (Neh 10:28-29)

In God's presence for consecration (Joel 2:15-16)

Blessing of being God's people (13)

God's people because once we were not one of God's people (1 Pet 2:10)

God's people because of God's love (Hos 2:23)

God's people because of God's call (Rom 9:24-26)

God's people because of God revealing Himself to us (Isa 65:1)

God's people because we are part of His flock and we listen to His voice (John 10:16)

Blessing of forgiveness (14)

A forgiveness that results in God not remembering our sins (Heb 8:12)

A forgiveness that sanctifies (Acts 26:17-18)

A forgiveness that rescues us from a dominion of darkness (Col 1:13-14)

A forgiveness through Jesus' blood (Matt 26:28)

A forgiveness in accordance with God's grace (Eph 1:7)

Blessing of answered prayer (15)

Answered prayer through asking in the Name of Jesus (John 16:22-24)

Answered prayer for wisdom (James 1:5)

Answered prayer through being righteous (James 5:16-18)

Answered prayer through obedience (1 John 3:21-22)

Answered prayer through asking according to God's will (1 John 5:13-15)

Blessing of God's kingdom (16-18)

A Kingdom that can never be destroyed (Dan 2:44)

A Kingdom that will be cleansed by God only (Matt 13:24-30)

A Kingdom that is an inheritance (Col 1:11-14)

A Kingdom that motivates us to be clear minded and self controlled (1 Peter 4:7)

A Kingdom that only the spiritual will inherit (1 Cor 15:44-50)

Consequences of Not Seeking God's Face (2 Chron 7:19-22)

Consequence of idolatry (19)

An idolatry that God forbids (Deut 5:7-9)

An idolatry that exchanges God's truth for a lie (Rom 1:25)

An idolatry that must be avoided (1 Cor 10:14)

An idolatry that participates with demons (1 Cor 10:18-22)

An idolatry that leads to death (Deut 30:17-20)

Consequence of loss of resources (20)

Loss because of the rich already receiving their reward (Luke 6:24-25)

Loss because richness will always fade away (James 1:11)

Loss because ungodly gained resources rots and corrodes (James 5:1-3)

Loss because of storing treasures on earth versus being rich toward God (Luke 12:16-21)

Loss because no one knows the day or hour this life will end (Matt 25:24-29)

Consequence of loss of fellowship (21-22)

Loss of fellowship because of walking in darkness (1 John 1:6)

Loss of fellowship because the wicked cannot dwell with God (Ps 5:4)

Loss of fellowship because there is no commonality between God and evil (2 Cor 6:15-16)

Loss of fellowship because of the love of evilness and the fear of it being exposed (John 3:19-20)

Loss of fellowship because to have fellowship, I must walk as Jesus walks (1 John 2:6)