

My Sins Are Blotted Out, I Know!
Isaiah 43:22-28

Introduction:

1. **IE:** Napoleon Bonaparte Was The Self-Proclaimed “Emperor Of The French” In The Early 1800's. He Was Known For His Innovative Military Strategies As Well As For His Strict Code Of Law. He Was Called: “The Enlightened Despot!” There Was A Man In Napoleon’s Army That Had Committed An Offense Twice, And Was Deserving Of Death. This Man’s Mother Approached Napoleon And Asked Him To Pardon Her Son. The Emperor Replied That Justice Demanded His Execution. The Man’s Mother Explained: “But I Don’t Ask For Justice; I Plead For Mercy!” Napoleon Replied: “But Your Son Does Not Deserve Mercy!” The Mother Cried Out: “But Sir, It Would Not Be Mercy If He Deserved it! And Mercy Is All I Ask For!” Napoleon Finally Complied And Said: “Well, Then – I Will Have Mercy!” And The Man’s Life Was Spared!
2. Mercy Is Always Undeserved!
 - Mercy Always Implies That Someone Who Did Something Wrong Is Not Getting What They Truly Do Deserve!
 - In Isaiah 43:22-28, We Have An Even More Vivid & Wonderful Display Of Mercy Than Napoleon’s!
 - Because This Is The Mercy Of God On Display!
 - And This Mercy Directly Pertains To You & Me!
 - One Of The Most Astounding Statements Of God’s Mercy Is Found In 43:25!
 - “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins!”
3. And Tonight, I Want To Focus On The Mercy Of God!
 - In Our Passage We Will Find:
 - The Recipients Of God’s Mercy!
 - The Deed Of God’s Mercy!
 - The Reason For God’s Mercy!
 - The Promise Of God’s Mercy!
 - And Your Need Of God’s Mercy!

1. *The Recipients Of God’s Mercy!*

- 43:22-24 - “But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel. 23 Thou hast not brought me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings; neither hast thou honoured me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, nor wearied thee with incense. 24 Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities!”
 - These 3 Verses Describe The Wickedness Of Those Who Claimed To Be God’s Chosen People!
 - Verse 22 Falls On The Heels Of Verse 21, Where God Said: “This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise!”
 - **IE:** It Was As If God Had Called Them To The Summit Of A Mountain, But Instead, They Ran Into A Deep, Miry Pit!
 - These People Did Not Deserve God’s Mercy! But It Would Not Be Mercy If They Did Deserve It!
 - What Kind Of People Would Become The Recipients Of God’s Mercy?
- A Prayerless People!
 - 43:22a - “But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob!”
 - “Call” - To Look To God In Prayer!
 - Are You A Prayerless Person?
 - Then You Desperately Need The Mercy Of God!
 - Charles Spurgeon Once Said: “Prayerless Souls Are Christless Souls!”
- A Weary People!
 - 43:22b - “But thou hast been weary of me, O Israel!”
 - “Weary” - To Get Tired Of!
 - Are You A Weary Person?
 - Are You Growing Tired Of Prayer, Worship, Bible Reading, Attendance At Church

- Functions, Witnessing?
 - According To This Verse, It Is Not These Activities That You Are Growing Weary Of – It Is The Lord Himself!
 - “Weary Of Me!”
 - You Desperately Need The Mercy Of God!
- A Thankless People!
 - 43:23a - “Thou hast not brought me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings!”
 - The People Had Plenty To Give, But They Gave God None!
 - All They Had Was Given To Them By God, Yet They Showed No Gratitude!
 - Are You A Thankless Person?
 - What Has God Given You?
 - What Are You Withholding From God?
 - Does God Need Our Offerings? No!
 - But Does God Desire Our Offerings? Yes!
 - They Are Like A Small Present From A Friend!
 - You Desperately Need The Mercy Of God!
- A Heartless People!
 - 43:23b - “Neither hast thou honoured me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, nor wearied thee with incense!”
 - A Sacrifice Was Meant To Be An Outward Act Based On An Inward Attitude!
 - They May Have Still Been Offering The Prescribed Sacrifices, But They Were Not Honoring The Lord Through Them!
 - He Received No Honor Because They Were Heartless Sacrifices!
 - Are You A Heartless Person?
 - I’m Not Asking If You Are Compassionate Toward Others!
 - I’m Asking If You Have A Heart For God!
 - If You Do Not Have A Heart For God & Perform Your Duties With A Heart For God, Then What You Do For God Is Empty And Meaningless!
 - Heartless Worship & Service Has Never Been God’s Plan!
 - The Lord Says: “I Have Not Caused Thee To Serve With An Offering, Nor Wearied Thee With Incense!”
 - The Lord Never Assigns “Busy Work!”
 - He Never Gave Instructions For Sacrifices To Weary His People – They Were Given For Their Own Joy & Rest!
 - Matthew 11:28-30 - “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light!”
 - You Desperately Need The Mercy Of God!
- A Useless People!
 - 43:24a - “Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices!”
 - God Desired “Sweet” & “Fat” Sacrifices From His People!
 - Things That Were The Best & The Choicest!
 - But What Good Are You If You Don’t Do What God Wants You To Do?
 - Are You A Useless Person?
 - Are You Performing God’s Purpose For Your Life?
 - If You Are Not, Other Creatures Are More Useful Than You!
 - You Desperately Need The Mercy Of God!
- A Wearying People!
 - 43:24b - “But thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities!”
 - The Lord Says:
 - You Think I Have Wearied You?
 - No, You Have Wearied Me!

- You Have Even: “Made Me To **Serve** With Thy Sins!”
 - An Unrepentant Sinner Who Has Never Darkened The Door Of A Church Is In A Far Better Condition Than An Unrepentant Sinner Who Goes To Church Whenever The Doors Are Open!
 - Think About How Much More You Have Heard!
 - Think About How Much More You Are Responsible For!
 - Are You A Wearying Person?
- If You Are One Of These Kinds Of People, You Are In Desperate Need Of The Mercy Of God!
 - And To You The Lord Says: “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins!” (43:25)
 - You & I Do Not Deserve God’s Mercy! But, Then, It Would Not Be Mercy If We Did Deserve It!

2. ***The Act Of God’s Mercy!***

- 43:25a - “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions!”
 - When We Deserve God’s Wrath, God Displays His Mercy!
- It Is A Divine Mercy!
 - This Is God’s Work Alone!
 - Only God Could Extend This Kind Of Mercy To Undeserving Sinners!
- It Is A Surprising Mercy!
 - After All The Previous Sins That Were Mentioned, Why Would God Blot Out Those Transgressions?
 - Would You?
- It Is A Present Mercy!
 - What Does He Do?
 - “Blotteth Out!”
 - Not Just Past Sins – But Present & Future Ones As Well!
 - In Order For God To Blot Something Out, There Has To Be Something To Blot Out!
 - There Is A Heavenly Recordbook Of All Your Sins!
 - “All My Sins?” Yes, All Your Sins!
 - God Knows You Inside & Out! You Can Hide Nothing From His Presence & Knowledge!
 - But, When God Blots Them Out, He Erases Them Completely!
 - **IE:** Not Like A Chalkboard!
- It Is A Complete Mercy!
 - God’s Record Of Your Sins Is No Longer There!
 - **IE:** It’s Like The Payment Of A Mortgage Note!
- Have You Received God’s Mercy?
 - Are You Living Like You Have Received God’s Mercy?
 - Some Believe That This Means You Can Go On Living Your Life Any Way You Want To!
 - Romans 6:1-2 - “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”
- You & I Do Not Deserve God’s Mercy! But, Then, It Would Not Be Mercy If We Did Deserve It!

3. ***The Reason For God’s Mercy!***

- 43:25b - “For mine own sake!”
- For His Own Unexplainable Reasons!
- For His Own Unique Glory!
- By His Own Loving Method!
 - Through The Sending & The Sacrifice Of His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Jesus Christ Is The Person That We Could Never Be!
 - Jesus Christ Is The Person That We Had To Be!
- You & I Cannot Deserve God’s Mercy! Because, It Would Not Be Mercy If We Could Deserve It!
 - But, In Order To Receive God’s Mercy, You Must Have This Truth Ringing In Your Heart: “Nothing in my hands I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling!”

- To Those Who Receive God's Undeserved Mercy In This Way, There Is:

4. *The Promise Of God's Mercy!*

- 43:25c - "And will not remember thy sins!"

- Can God Forget?

- When It Comes To This Promise To His People, He Can & Does!

- If You Or Anyone Else Were To Ask Him About The Sins Of Those Who Received His Mercy, He Will Say:

- "I Do Not Remember It!"

- He Will "Not Remember":

- The Acts Of Your Sin!

- What You Deserve As Punishment For Your Sin!

- Jeremiah 31:34 - "For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more!"

- Hebrews 8:12 - "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more!"

- Psalm 103:10-12 - "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us!"

- What God Promises, "He [Is] Able Also To Perform!" (Romans 4:21)

- Can You Say With Certainty: "My Sins Are Blotted Out, I Know?"

- You & I Do Not Deserve God's Mercy! But, Then, It Would Not Be Mercy If We Did Deserve It!

5. *The Need For God's Mercy!*

- 43:26-28 - "Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified. 27 Thy first father hath sinned, and thy teachers have transgressed against me. 28 Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches!"

- If You Don't Think You Need The Mercy Of God – If You Think That You Can Make It Through This Life & Into The Next Without The Mercy Of God – Then These Verses Are Directed To You!

- You Need God's Mercy, Because You Have Nothing To Plea!

- 43:26 - "Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified!"

- Romans 7:18 - "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing!"

- You Have Nothing To Plea!

- You Have No Case!

- You Can Never Justify Yourself!

- You Need God's Mercy, Because You Have Nothing To Take Pride In!

- 43:27 - "Thy first father hath sinned, and thy teachers have transgressed against me!"

- Instead Of A Heritage Of Faith – You Have A Legacy Of Sin!

- Your Forefathers – Whom You Do Honor – Sinned!

- Your Teachers – Whom You Do Listen To – Sin!

- How Much More Should You Honor & Listen To The Lord!

- You Need God's Mercy, Because You Have Nothing To Look Forward To!

- 43:28 - "Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches!"

- If You Do Not See Your Need For God's Mercy & Do Not Receive God's Mercy, You Will Be Judged!

Conclusion:

1. But If You Recognize Your Need For God's Mercy & Receive The Gift Of God's Mercy:

- The Lord Says To You: "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins!"

2. You & I Do Not Deserve God's Mercy! But, Then, It Would Not Be Mercy If We Did Deserve It!

* "My Sins Are Blotted Out I Know!"

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