

INTRODUCTION

We have considered together the stern warning from God regarding His jealousy: that He will visit the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Him. That warning is attached to the second commandment.

Now, let us enjoy the promise from God that also is attached to the second commandment: the precious promise that God will show mercy to thousands, to those who love Him and keep His commandments.

TEXT

Exodus 20:4-6 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: (5) Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; (6) And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

BODY

I. What This Mercy Is

A. From the words used

1. H2617 *chesed* G1656 *eleos*
2. English: mercy; steadfast love; faithful love; kindness; goodness; lovingkindness

B. From a denial of what it is not: It is not God paying us something that we earn or deserve

1. yes, God has promised to show mercy on those who love Him and keep His commandments
2. but it is not because we deserve it or have earned it
 - a) not that if we love God, He then owes us something;
 - b) not that if we obey God's commandments, He then is obligated to reward us
3. Genesis 32:10 (Jacob) I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies...which You have shown Your servant...

C. From reference to God's goodness

1. Psalm 100:5 ...the LORD is good... Psalm 145:9 The LORD is good to all...
 - a) God is good; He is perfectly good; He is purely good; He is the ultimate good; He is the source of all good
2. Psalm 106:1 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
 - a) God's mercy is an aspect of God's goodness, by which God does good to us His creatures, especially to relieve us when we are in some kind of trouble or distress
3. mercy is spoken of either as that willingness in God to do us good, or as the actual good that He does us (especially when used in the plural - "mercies")

D. From examples in the Bible of how God shows us mercy

1. by mercy, God saves us
 - a) Exodus 15:13 You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation.
2. by mercy, God forgives our sins
 - a) you see this in Ex 20:4-6, where showing mercy is the opposite of visiting iniquity
 - b) Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, (7) keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."
 - c) Numbers 14:19a Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy...
 - d) Psalm 86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.
3. by mercy, God preserves us
 - a) Psalm 40:11 Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.
 - b) Psalm 94:18 KJV When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.
 - c) Lamentations 3:21-23 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. (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.
4. by mercy, God hears our prayers
 - a) Psalm 69:13 But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD, in the acceptable time; O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, Hear me in the truth of Your salvation.

E. From the Bible's descriptions of it

1. God's mercy is great - Psalm 103:11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
2. God's mercy is precious or excellent - Psalm 36:7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.
3. God's mercy is better than life - Psalm 63:3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.
4. God's mercy is everlasting
 - a) Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.
 - b) Psalm 100:5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting...
 - c) Psalm 103:17-18 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, (18) To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.

II. How God Shows This Mercy to Thousands Through Jesus Christ

- A. It is not that when one person loves God and keeps His commandments, then God's promise is that He will be merciful to every generation of his descendents for 20,000 or 40,000 years
- B. God showed mercy to thousands by promising mercy to the seed of David forever - 2 Samuel 22:50-51 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name. (51) "He is the tower of salvation to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants [seed] forevermore."
- C. God showed mercy to thousands by calling everyone to come to Him and receive those mercies promised to David - Isaiah 55:1-3
- D. God showed mercy to thousands by sending us His Son, Jesus Christ
 1. Luke 1:50 (Mary) And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation.
- E. God showed mercy to thousands in what Jesus Christ has suffered for us; and in how He raised Him from the dead - Acts 13:28-34
- F. God showed mercy to thousands by sending us the preaching of the gospel of forgiveness
 1. Acts 13:38-39 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; (39) and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.
- G. God shows mercy to thousands by counting us as loving and obedient in Jesus Christ
 1. no one here perfectly matches the description given with the second commandment, to love God and keep His commandments
 2. but Jesus Christ is those things in perfection
 3. therefore God's promise applies perfectly to Him
 4. and by God's grace, all who trust in Christ have the promise fulfilled in Him

[If time is up at this point, I may conclude here.]

III. What We Are to Do Regarding God's Mercy

- A. Cry out to Him to save you in His mercy - Psalm 109:26 Help me, O LORD my God! Oh, save me according to Your mercy,
- B. Trust in God's mercy
 1. Psalm 36:5,7 Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds....How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.
 2. Psalm 52:8b ...I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever.
- C. Hope in God's mercy - Psalm 147:11 The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.
- D. Worship God for His mercy - Psalm 5:7 But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.
 1. Giving thanks - Psalm 118:29 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.
 2. Singing His praises - Psalm 89:1 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.
- E. Rejoice and be glad in God's mercy - Psalm 31:7 I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, For You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities,
- F. Pray for more of God's mercy
 1. for God's help - Psalm 44:26 Arise for our help, And redeem us for Your mercies' sake.
 2. for God's comfort - Psalm 119:76a Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort...
- G. Speak of God's mercy - Isaiah 63:7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD And the praises of the LORD, According to all that the LORD has bestowed on us, And the great goodness toward the house of Israel, Which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, According to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses.
- H. Love God's mercy and shew it to other people
 1. Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?
 2. Zechariah 7:9 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother.
- I. Be moved to love and obedience by the promise of God's mercy

CONCLUSION

Stephen - Call to Worship - Psalm 138

Alvin - Scripture Reading - Psalm 119:161-168

Roel - Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 718 "Leaning On the Everlasting Arms" - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 76 "With Grateful Heart" - Andrew lead

Bella - Trinity 441 "Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ"

2023-08-13 9:30 a.m.

This week in the morning Bible study I attend, Ricky mentioned the Holy Spirit in the context of the OT passage we were reading. One of the men asked, “The Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost. In the OT, are you talking about some other Holy Spirit? Is there more than one Holy Spirit?”

The Holy Spirit is mentioned in the second line of the Bible.

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (2) And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

The Holy Spirit came upon a few certain men, for them to do aspects of God’s work that would have been impossible for them to do naturally.

Bezalel

Exodus 31:1-7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, (2) See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: (3) And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, (4) To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, (5) And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. (6) And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee; (7) The tabernacle of the congregation, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is thereupon, and all the furniture of the tabernacle,

The judges, including Samson

Judges 14:5-6 Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. (6) And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Judges 15:14-15 And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. (15) And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

King Saul and King David - to defeat God's enemies, especially the Philistines

1 Samuel 10:1 Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

1 Samuel 10:6-7 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. (7) And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.

1 Samuel 10:10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

1 Samuel 16:13-14 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. (14) But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

Psalms 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

(This is the first time of three in the OT that God's Spirit is called the "Holy Spirit.")

The Prophets - to speak the word of the Lord

2 Chronicles 24:20 Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God: 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.' "

God had His prophets foretell that when Messiah came, the Holy Spirit would be poured out on Him and on many others through Him.

Isaiah 11:1-2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: (2) And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Joel 2:28-29 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: (29) And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Genesis 24:12 Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

Genesis 19:19 Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die.

He does not mean in unbroken line. See Daniel 9.

Jonathan Edwards on Ex 20:3-7

second commandment - "right means"

third commandment - "right spirit and in a holy manner"