

Compassionate and Merciful

[Jas 5:11 ESV] 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

I. Intro

- A. We have been reminded to not grumble against others
- B. We have been reminded to remain steadfast
- C. We have been challenged to walk in faith in the midst of the challenges that come.
- D. God is good...
 - 1. He is right and just
 - 2. He holy and pure
 - 3. We do not have to understand Him to follow Him.
 - 4. He is creator, He is Lord
- E. Who is God?
 - 1. We know Him by His actions and attributes
 - 2. We have some favorites that we lean on: grace, compassion, mercy
 - 3. There are others we try to fight against: sovereign, LORD, Holy
- F. We need to stop and respond to HOLY GOD in a way that is right and true:
 - 1. In the times of trial: trust Him more
 - 2. In the times of blessing: Trust Him more
- G. What will be remembered?
 - 1. Nolan Ryan and robin Ventura,
 - 2. Ventura charged the mound, didn't get a punch in...
 - 3. Who won the game? Texas 5-3
 - 4. Ultimately the game was the point, but it is not what is remembered
- H. My prayer is
 - 1. that you will remember the thing that is important about God
 - 2. That His compassion and mercy will be remembered
 - 3. And that you will also be remembered for modeling Christ in this way.

II. Text

- A. The Story of Job:
 - 1. Side note:
 - a) Job is a challenging study, and is the most challenging in the OT
 - b) There are things I do not understand about it, yet I know the clarity of the conclusion.
 - 2. [Job 1:1-3 ESV] 1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. 2 There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. 3 He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.
 - 3. Job had every earthly blessing
 - 4. Job tragically lost it all
 - 5. Job never cursed God, though he did question God
 - 6. Job was in despair and wished he had never been born
 - 7. God responds:
 - 8. [Job 38:4-7 ESV] 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements--surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, 7 when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
- B. The purpose of the Lord: The redemption of the world He created, bringing Him glory.
- C. Compassionate and merciful

1. Compassion: Webster: sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it
2. Mercy: Webster: compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power

III. Points

A. You have heard

1. You have heard the old, old story
 - a) You have read the Bible,
 - b) Studied the Bible,
 - c) Listened to the teaching of the Bible,
 - d) sung songs teaching the truth of the Bible
2. You have heard wise counselors instruct you regarding walking in Biblical truth
3. You have heard enough, but you are not complete.
 - a) The gospel is simple
 - b) The following of the Lord can sometimes be confusing
 - c) You were not meant to walk alone, you were meant to walk with others.
4. The question is: What is it going to take for you to believe the story you have heard?
 - a) Jesus died for you, and was resurrected to new life
 - b) There are challenges along the way, but that is what matters most.
 - c) Have you believed? Have you obeyed?

B. You have seen

1. When we see truth in action, we are forced into a decision: believe or reject
2. We have seen God do amazing things, do we believe the purpose of the Lord you have seen in action?
3. God's purpose in regards to us:
 - a) Redeem mankind
 - b) [Rom 8:28 ESV] 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
 - c) [Psa 138:7-8 ESV] 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. 8 The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.
 - d) God's purpose:
 - (1) In creation: fellowship
 - (2) In fellowship: redemption
 - (3) In redemption: Glory!
 - e) God's purpose for us is to trust His redemptive plan and walk worthy of the calling.

C. The LORD IS

1. [Jhn 4:24 ESV] 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."
2. [Deu 4:24, 31 ESV] 24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. ... 31 For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.
3. [1Jo 4:7-8 ESV] 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
4. [1Jo 1:5-10 ESV] 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all

- unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
5. So, HE is a consuming fire and jealous, while also perfectly merciful and gracious. HE is love and defines the concept, and HE is light, dispelling the darkness.
- IV. Close

God does not condemn Job for his questioning or wanting an explanation for why God has ruined him (2:3). In fact, God says that Job has spoken right about Him (42:8). On the other hand, God does condemn Job's three friends for not speaking the truth about God. What is interesting here is that most Christians still believe and would agree with Job's friends. If God isn't answering our prayers it is because we have not confessed our sins, or God is punishing us. But, Job challenges those beliefs—sometimes we suffer to bring God glory and not because we have sinned.