

The Wednesday Word, March 20, 2013: Rich in Mercy

When we think of God, does the truth that He is wonderfully merciful immediately spring to mind? Probably not!

More than likely, we conjure up a picture of a God who is harsh, critical and judgmental.....someone not to run to, but to run from. This kind of faulty thinking about the character of the Almighty can have dire consequences. In fact, unless we get our thoughts about God straight our walk with Him will be crooked.

The scripture declares boldly in Ephesians 2:4 that God is rich in mercy. It is of interest to note that the Greek word translated 'rich', is the same word from which we get our English word 'plush'. Just think of it.....our God is plush in mercy. That means, He's not stingy when it comes to mercy. It means that He doesn't dispense mercy with eye drops. No!!! On the contrary, He is rich, plush, extravagant, and liberal when it comes to giving out mercy.

In all my years as a believer, I have not yet encountered a single person who didn't need mercy. Believers and unbelievers alike continually need daily mercy. Every day, as Christians, we sin and fail God. I think you'll agree, we followers of Christ don't pray, love God or love each other the way we should do. We need mercy! But God is rich in mercy. He is wealthy in and generous with that mercy. So whatever your situation today, bring it to the One who is plush with mercy.

We may feel like complete failures in our Christian lives ... but God is rich in mercy. Because He is rich in mercy, He gave His Son to be slaughtered at the cross for all our sinful fallings and failings. Because He is rich in mercy, He set forth and publicly displayed Christ as a propitiation (a wrath offering) for us. Because He is rich in mercy, Christ has become the very Mercy Seat for the fallen believer. So don't run from Himrun to Him! He is rich in mercy!

Regardless of how much we have failed Him, we can come to Him today, right now, for mercy. Perhaps you are saying to yourself, "I don't deserve mercy." Well, truer words were never spoken! Think of it, if any of us deserved it, it wouldn't be mercy.

His mercy is great. His grace is free. He is rich in mercy. May we never, ever let shame trick us into staying away from Him. Staying away will only lead to straying away.

Spurgeon tells of how the gospel preacher, Rowland Hill, was given a large sum of money to dispense to a certain minister who was extremely poor. In his wisdom, Mr Hill realised that if he were to give him the entire sum of money all at once, the poor minister would be overwhelmed. So he decided to send the money in instalments every few days and with each instalment he wrote a note to the minister which simply said, "There's more to Follow."

This is so like the blessings of God. Every blessing we receive from God has the same note joined to it. It says,

"There's more to follow."

He chose us, but there's more to follow.

He called us, but there's more to follow.

He regenerated us, but there's more to follow.

He justified us, but there's more to follow.

He acquitted us, but there's more to follow.
He declared us righteous, but there's more to follow.
He set us apart to Himself, but there's more to follow.
He adopted us, but there's more to follow.
He gave us eternal life, but there's more to follow.

Why? Because, "God is Rich in Mercy."

And that's the Gospel Truth!