

# **Knowing God More**

## **Lesson 2 - God is Merciful**

Exodus 34:5-6 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him (Moses) there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth..."

This week we will look at the second characteristic the Lord proclaimed to Moses:

### ➤ **Mercy**

Begin this study with prayer, asking the Lord to reveal Himself in His word that you might know Him more.

### **The Meaning**

1. Write a definition of "mercy" below.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Mercy is here on this earth only in the presence of a merciful God. Consider your definition above and write your thoughts on what a world without mercy would look like.

### **What does scripture have to say?**

1. What do the following scriptures say about God's mercy?
  - a. Psalm 23:6
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Psalm 100:5
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Micah 7:18-19

d. Titus 3:5

2. Psalm 103 has much to say about the mercy of God. Read verses 11 and 12 and write what you see below.

### **Manifestation of His Name**

We will look at two examples in scripture that show the mercy of God, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament.

#### **God's Mercy to the Children of Israel – Nehemiah 9**

This chapter is a pronouncement of the incredible mercy of God in relation to the Children of Israel, even with their repeated times of ingratitude and wickedness. In verses 1-15 the Children of Israel have gathered to fast and confess their sins and the sins of their fathers. They also remembered the miracles of God as He delivered them from Egypt and led them to the promised land. As we read on in Chapter 9 we will see the actions and attitudes of the Israelites and the response by the Lord.

1. Read Nehemiah 9:16-17 and answer the following questions.

a. What was the behavior of the Israelites toward God?

b. How is God described in verse 17b?

c. Write the last line in verse 17 below and consider how it represents the mercy of God.

2. We see in Nehemiah 9:18 that the Israelites turned away from God again, making a golden calf and worshipping it, and we see God's response in the next few verses.

a. Write the statement in the first two lines of verse 19 that describes the Lord's mercy.

b. From Nehemiah 9:19-25, list some of what God did for the children of Israel in His mercy.

3. Read Nehemiah 9:26-31.

a. What do the first two lines of verse 26 and verse 28 tell you about the character of the Israelites?

b. Now look at the second half of verses 27 and 28, and all of verse 31. What do these verses reveal about the character of God?

4. Consider this example of God's repeated mercy to the Israelites. How have you seen the mercy of God repeated in similar fashion in your own life?

### **Mercy Shown to the Blind Men – Matthew 20:29-34**

As we read through these verses, we see that there are two blind men sitting by the side of the road. Jesus is approaching and a multitude of people are with Him.

1. On any other day, these blind men would call to the people passing by for mercy. What might a kind person passing by do for the blind men?

2. But this was not a normal day because they heard that Jesus was passing by!

a. What did they cry out to Jesus?

b. What was the reaction of the crowd?

c. What was the reaction of Jesus to their cries?

d. Ignoring the crowd, what did the blind men ask of Jesus?

e. Jesus did have mercy on these men! He heard them, He spoke to them and He healed them. Write the last three words in Matthew 20:34 describing the most important effect God's mercy had on these men.

## **The Effect of Understanding God's Character**

As we know God more, we will want to be more like Him, so a better understanding of the mercy of God will affect how we live our lives.

1. How would knowing more of God's character of mercy change or affect the way someone might perceive God?

2. Knowing God's mercy should cause us to desire to be merciful. We should examine our lives to see mercy growing in our interaction with others.

a. Can you think of a time you were not merciful? The opposite of mercy can be described as: judgment without kindness and without compassion or pity, showing anger. Do you see these behaviors in your own life? How can this be changed?

b. Think of one or more situations where you have an opportunity to be merciful and write them here.

c. What advice would you give someone who struggles with showing mercy to others?

3. God's Word is filled with the benefits we reap because of God's mercy. Read 1 Peter 1:3 and write what you see as your benefits.

4. End this study by writing a prayer of thanks to the Lord for His abundant mercy in your life.