

CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

How Great is Our God - Part 4: Gracious and Merciful

July 26, 2020

Sermon Text

Nehemiah 9:14-17 (NKJV) ¹⁴ You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, And commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, By the hand of Moses Your servant. ¹⁵ You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, And brought them water out of the rock for their thirst, And told them to go in to possess the land Which You had sworn to give them. ¹⁶ "But they and our fathers acted proudly, Hardened their necks, And did not heed Your commandments. ¹⁷ They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You *are* God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.

God calls us to know and grow in His Grace and Mercy

Grace: The unmerited favor of God, made known through Jesus Christ, and expressed supremely in the redemption and full forgiveness of sinners through faith in Jesus Christ.

Know **Nehemiah 9:20-21 (NLT)** ²⁰ You sent your good Spirit to instruct them, and you did not stop giving them manna from heaven or water for their thirst. ²¹ For forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell!

Hebrews 12:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Grow **2 Peter 3:17-18 (NIV)** ¹⁷ Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Mercy: A quality of compassion, especially as expressed in God's forgiveness of human sin. Bible stresses God's forbearance towards sinners. In his mercy, God shields sinners from what they deserve and gives gifts that they do not deserve.

Know **Nehemiah 9:19 (NLT)** ¹⁹ "But in your great mercy you did not abandon them to die in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud still led them forward by day, and the pillar of fire showed them the way through the night.

Zechariah 7:8-10 (NIV) ⁸ And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah: ⁹ "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. ¹⁰ Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'

Grow **Matthew 5:7 (NIV)** ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

LIFE QUESTIONS?

People: Attitudes and Actions

How did the people respond to God's goodness?

Nehemiah 9:26 (NIV) ²⁶ "But they were disobedient and rebelled against you; they put your law behind their backs. They killed your prophets, who had admonished them in order to turn them back to you; they committed awful blasphemies.

How will you respond to God's goodness?

Will you be more gracious and merciful to others?

Romans 2:2-6 (NLT)

² And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things.

³ Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things? ⁴ Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? ⁵ But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ He will judge everyone according to what they have done.