

INTRODUCTION

1. Luke's Great Commission - Lk 24:46-47. Present focus: *forgiveness of sin*
2. Forgiveness is an act of the God of Bible. Like *love*, *forgiveness* is a theological term. God alone forgives sinners - Exo 34:5-9

1st: The Lord of Mercy Comes to Dwell with Israel

1. Rehearse historical context: Exodus from Egypt to Sinai. People enter into covenant - theocracy.
2. Leaders eat meal w/ YHWH [24:9-11]. Moses given directives - 40 days.
3. Chpts 25-31 - build tabernacle: YHWH to dwell w/ men! Dt 4:7.

2nd: The Holy Lord, Idolatrous Israel, and the Mediation of Moses

1. Exo 32 - Golden Calf - pagan idolatry. YHWH's wrath - Moses intercedes & YHWH relents [Ex 32:14] & reveals mercy.
2. Moses destroys 2 tablets - again mediates 32:30-32 - a picture of Jesus. Journey resumes in chpt 33

3rd: Moses' Request to See the Lord

1. 33:18-23 - Lord persists on revealing His mercy; Moses asks to see glory & Lord shows His *goodness* - reveals His name.
2. Revelation according to sovereignty & limited for Moses' protection!

4th: The Lord Proclaims His Name

1. 34:1-4 Moses -> mtn w/ new set of tablets to rewrite 10c.
2. 34:5-6a Moses asked to see but given words: proclaim name: YHWH
3. God is not composed of compassion or patience or justice: He is compassion etc. Descriptions of YHWH's self-revelation: name - v6b-7a
 - i. *compassionate* - suzerain to vassal; used re: mother's love in Isa 49:15 & father's love Ps 103:13; empathy for helpless & desire to relieve suffering; revealed in electing love, provisions for pardon of sin.
 - ii. *gracious* - pity, giving freely, generously => undeserved mercy

- iii. *slow to anger* - lit: "long" = patient: puts up w/ a lot for a long time! *Slow to anger* not => never is angry, but wrath is not capricious
- iv. *abounding in lovingkindness* [hesed]: steadfast covenant love. Faithful to vows & grace to forgive infidelity: sin. OT version of *God is love* [1 Jn 4:8] - propitiates wrath.
- v. *truth* - never goes back on a promise: [1Jn 4:10]
- vi. v7 repeats *lovingkindness* expressed in *forgiveness*: to carry away; cf. sin on scape-goat; cast into sea; remove as far as east from west.
 - a. *iniquity* - twist, pervert, distort; also legal consequences - guilt
 - b. *transgression* - breach of contract; revolt against authority: traitor
 - c. *sin* - miss a target; *sin is lawlessness* [1 Jn 3:4]; legal guilt, blame

4. Revelation of mercy & just wrath - v7b

- i. *yet by no means leave guilty unpunished* - Hebrew doubling terms for emphasis: "no acquit not acquit"
- ii. *visiting* - "There is probably no other Heb verb that has caused translators as much trouble [*visit*]." Boss assessing workers
 - a. context of punishment, not forgiveness - influence of *fathers*
 - b. God holy love & sinners receive either forgiveness or wrath.
 - c. Vth c & IInd c - Exo 20:4-6.
 - d. Each individual is accountable for his/her own sin; but *fathers* - leaders do influence lives of ensuing generations - idolatry.

5. Tension? In God? No. The tension is due to our sin: we deserve wrath but desire mercy. Where is God's mercy & wrath resolved? The cross.

- i. Cross: sov grace & righteous justice - *kindness & severity* [R 11:22].
- ii. Cross: provision for forgiveness where Jesus bears wrath - R 3:26.

6. Lord comes to you today proclaiming His merciful name: the gospel of *repentance for the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name*.

-07. Jesus bore wrath & warns of wrath: hell. The tension of Ex 34:6-7 is also resolved in heaven/hell. Where will you resolve that tension? Exo 34:8-9