

“Mercy and Grace”

God’s Response to Our Mistakes

Acts 27:14-26

Before Exegesis

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need.

And Jehovah passed by before him, and proclaimed, Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth Exodus 34:6

Before Outline

(Ill. In one memorable scene from John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Christian, finding the pathway difficult, climbed over a stile to walk in a meadowy bypath. Eventually the ground grew soggy and covered with poisonous vines. The sky became black, and Christian spent the night huddled at the foot of an oak tree, caught in a downpour. Next morning, Giant Despair came upon him, captured him, beat him, and imprisoned him in the dungeon of Doubting Castle with its grim battlements and thick, black walls. Christian tried to sing, but couldn't. His mood was dungeon-dark. Giant Despair beat him mercilessly, and he grew weaker each day. At length he found in his cell a rope, a knife, and a bottle of poison, the tools of suicide, and for a moment he was tempted to end his misery.

But one evening about midnight he began to pray, and a little before day, good Christian, as one half amazed, brake out into this passionate speech: ***What a fool am I, thus to lie in a stinking dungeon, when I may as well walk at liberty! I have a key in my bosom, called Promise, that will, I am sure, open any lock in Doubting Castle.***"

God’s Mercy and Grace is needed for Man’s: Follies, Futility, Faith

I. Follies – “if by any means” (verses 14-15)

Our sinful behavior leaves us :

A. **Deceived** – “not long after” is what happens when we sin or make poor choices. We listen to our desires and the devil rather than God or sound thinking.

Galatians 6:7-8

B. **Detained** – “ship was caught” keeping us from what we need to do. True freedom is being able to do what I need to do.

C. **Disabled** – “could not bear up” We are truly unable to turn over a new leaf or turn the ship around – We need supernatural help

Titus 3:5 -not by works done in righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy he saved us

II. **F**utility – “hope...was then taken away” (vs 16-20)

Our hard work leaves us:

A. **D**esperate – “undergirding the ship”

We could see our desperate condition ...if we could step back from our lives and review the schemes, methods or madness we conduct like last week to try to meet our perceived needs. Be honest, did you do stupid stuff last week in an attempt to meet your needs?

B. **D**iscouraged – “fearing lest they should fall”

Discouragement comes when courage is gone and all that is left in its place is fear. Fear for what we know and fear for what might be coming.

"If you are distressed by anything external,
the pain is not due to the thing itself
but to your own estimate of it;
and this you have the power to revoke
at any moment." *Charles F. Kettering*

C. **D**isoriented – “neither sun nor stars”

Romans 3:10-12 – the work of the flesh leads to “going nowhere fast”

Proverbs 29:18 - Where *there is* no vision, the people perish ... Where there is no clear direction, divine instruction, the people don't know where to go or what to do.

III. **F**aith – “for I believe God” (verses 21-26)

Our quest for truth leads us to:

Mark 9:24 – Lord help our unbelief – are you there?

A. **R**epentance – “should have hearkened”

What keeps mercy from being mercy?

What keeps grace from being grace?

Romans 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.

PRIDE and the Lack of Repentance

B. **R**evelation – “the angel of God”

Proverbs 16:6 – by mercy and truth

Jonah 2:8 - that regard lying vanities Forsake their own mercy

II John 3 - Grace, mercy, peace shall be with us, from God the Father, and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

C. **R**eliance – “I believe God”

Luke 1:50 = his mercy is unto generations and generations On them that fear him⁶⁵