

Love Story Part II
Unreasonable Mercy
August 6, 2017
by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Psalm 107:8 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Most of us know that Psalms are actually songs; most of them songs of praise written for and sung unto the Lord for generations.

The music has been lost to us in translation but the lyrics are alive and well to be studied and understood by those who love and praise the Lord.

The scripture we just read is a chorus repeated four times between stanzas expressing the incredible, yes, even unreasonable mercy and lovingkindness of the Lord.

In our Wednesday night Bible study here at Lighthouse, we have been studying selected Psalms.

For the past several weeks we have been studying this one, Psalm 107.

A new adjective to describe God's mercy has emerged in our study of this Psalm.

The more we learn from it the more we see the truly **unreasonable mercy** of the Lord.

The term "unreasonable" is defined as "acting at variance with or contrary to reason".

We read in the New Testament about the great love of our God toward His children; even to those who refuse to be His children.

John 3:16 For God **so loved** the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Ephesians 2:4-8

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for **his great love** wherewith he loved us,
5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:
7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Romans 5:6-11

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But **God commendeth his love toward us**, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Judging what is or is not reasonable certainly plays a part in Christian life.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*.

Even we who are redeemed often keep on making the same poor decisions, the same bad judgment, even the same sins.

I. Is it reasonable that God would rescue His redeemed from the consequences of our own actions?

Psalm 107:1-8

1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for *he is* good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

3 And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.

4 They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.

5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

6 Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he delivered them out of their distresses.

7 And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.

8 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

9 For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

A. Perhaps; this could possibly be considered reasonable.

1. We are His Children, after all.

2. We were lost!

3. We were wandering in a world of spiritual desolation with a great big dead spot inside of us.

4. Jesus heard the cry of our spirit dead in sins; He came and found us where we were and delivered us by His Word.

5. Remember **Psalm 40:1-3** from last week?

1 I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings.

3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

6. Surely, we the redeemed would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

7. But do we?

B. Jesus saved us, gave us a place to belong, satisfied our hunger and filled our lives with blessing.

1. Now He forgives our sins; He constantly renews His mercy; He rescues us every time we fall.

2. What have we ever done to deserve such mercy?

3. **Galatians 6:7** says: **Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**

4. A basic principle of life is that men reap what they sow.

5. But we don't!

6. Oh sure, we reap some of the consequences of our actions but most of the time God intervenes and we reap only a portion, if any, of the expected and certainly deserved consequences of our sins and failures.

7. God's love and mercy toward us is so incredible that He is willing to circumvent even His own principles to demonstrate His love and mercy toward us.

8. That is unreasonable mercy!

Maybe God would rescue His redeemed but...

II. Is it reasonable that God would rescue those who are living in open rebellion against Him?

Psalm 107:10-16

10 Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, *being* bound in affliction and iron;

11 Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned [scorned, despised] the counsel of the most High:

12 Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and *there was* none to help.

13 Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he saved them out of their distresses.

14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

15 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

16 For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

A. Surely there are limits even to God's mercy.

1. I suppose there are limits even to the mercy of God...but none of you have found them yet.

2. I have some news you may not be aware of.

3. We were all sinners and rebels.

4. All we like sheep have gone astray.

5. Every one of us had a time when we chose our own way over God's way; we all rejected God's counsel.

6. Some of us even openly stood against Him.

B. Sometimes the greatest demonstration of God's love is for Him to send us pain and heartache.

1. Some of you have been through the scenario we just read.

2. You rebelled against God, things were going ok for a while; and then your life began to turn to something I'm not going to say from the pulpit.

3. Disappointment; failure; misery; it seemed like everything good in your life was being taken from you.

4. You were sure God was punishing you; you did deserve it after all.

C. Some would preach, "God is love, He wouldn't send you sickness and heartache and misery!"

1. All I have to say to that is, Mister, you don't know your Bible and you certainly do not know my Heavenly Father.

2. Sometimes God *does* send sickness and heartache and misery...and He does it out of love!

3. *Vs.12 Therefore he (God) brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.*

4. You thought God was punishing you; you thought God was getting his revenge for all the things you've done.

5. He wasn't punishing you; He was saving you!

6. Some of us have to hit bottom before we will look up.

7. Some of you may be in the fire right now; how far are you going to let this go before you will cry out to God?

Ok, we can understand God going to the trouble to save those who still have some life left to serve Him, but...

III. Is it reasonable that God would save those who have lived their entire lives in open rebellion and sin?

Psalm 107:17-22

17 Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.

18 Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death.

19 Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he saveth them out of their distresses.

20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered *them* from their destructions.

21 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

*A. God calls them **fools**; what is a fool?*

1. **Psalm 14:1** ...The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God*. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is none that doeth good*.

2. It is sometimes said that there is no fool like an old fool.

3. Some are stubborn indeed; they have endured a lifetime of misery and still refuse to cry out to God.

4. They have lived their entire lives standing against God; standing in rebellion.

5. "Oh, come on preacher, God is going to save someone who has spent their entire life hating Him... really?"

5. Now they are facing death; not like we all actually do every day but these are on their last stretch...death is coming and it is coming soon.

B. What good is an old fool on the edge of eternity?

1. I have listed here on this blank sheet of paper all the logical reasons I can think of that Jesus would go to the trouble of saving an old rebellious fool who has been His enemy for his entire life.

2. As I said, my page is blank.

3. But Jesus, with unreasonable mercy, stands ready to save even the old fool who will cry out to God.

4. What this all means is that there is hope for you!

5. No matter what kind of a mess you have made of your life, you are not out of His reach.

IV. When men cry out to God.

A. The process in every case is the same.

1. [Vs. 20 He sent his word...](#)

2. In **John 1**, Jesus is presented to us as The Word.

3. **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**.

4. **John 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

5. Jesus is the Word made flesh.

B. Crying out to God does not save us.

1. Crying out to God from the heart is a cry for help.
2. To which God responds by sending us His Word; will you receive it?
3. It will come by messenger; I am one of those messengers.
4. Receiving the Word will bring you an opportunity; it will expose you to the saving power of Christ.
5. **1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received the word of God** which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
6. Receiving the Word IS receiving Jesus.
John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

Conclusion:

In the Word of God, you will find a specific message of power; it is called the Gospel of Christ.

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The gospel is the death, the burial and the resurrection of Christ...for our sins...according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Have you been crying out to God? Now finish the process by placing your trust in Jesus to save you from your sins.