

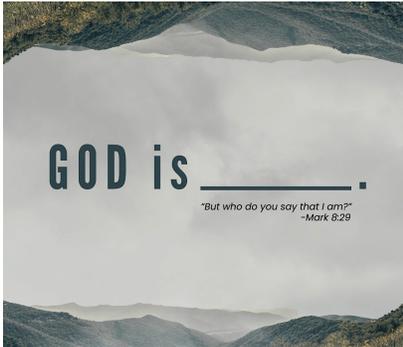
GOD IS MERCIFUL

(God is _____ Series, Part 5)

A Lord's Flock Worship Topic

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The Lord God passed before Moses and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Exo. 34:6). This verse unveils God's character and attributes, highlighting his unwavering love and mercy: compassion, grace, patience, and faithfulness. Moreover, God made a divine covenant to continue being merciful (Deut. 4:31), and He fulfilled this as explained by Jesus in the Scriptures through parables.



1. How did God fulfill his covenant?

1.1 The Parable of the Prodigal Son

The story shows the father's love and willingness to forgive and welcome his son who strayed, even after causing harm or making mistakes (Lk. 15:11-32). It emphasizes the importance of forgiveness and the willingness to repent for our sins and change our behavior. Truly, God's love is unconditional, and He rejoices when sinners repent and return to Him (Rom. 5:8).

1.2 The Story of the Older Son

The older son's resentment highlights the complexities of forgiveness and the importance of celebrating those who have been redeemed. The older brother is an example of the two types of Christians in this world:

- Sinners who already know God but remain distant from Him because of the burden of guilt.
- Those who go to church regularly, serve in the church and the community, and expect God to bless them more based on their performance and length of time in serving Him.

1.3 The Parable of the Good Samaritan

This well-known story represents God's mercy, that love for neighbor is not limited by ethnicity, religion, or social status, but it should extend to everyone in need. The Samaritan man is the true neighbor because he showed mercy (Lk. 10:25-37). God sees and grants the help that we need. We yearn for God's overwhelming mercy to elevate us beyond our weaknesses.

Conclusion:

No matter how far we are from God or how much we misuse His gift, He is always delighted when we return to Him. His selfless mercy and compassion always await us to return to Him, where He greets us with open arms. In our faith, God has shown His love and mercy through Jesus Christ. Indeed, mercy is not earned but is lavishly and fully given by God.

Reflection:

1. Can you trust God to help you through your journey?
2. How did God fulfill His covenant in you?
3. Have you been a good Samaritan in the streets? How did you feel?

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