



Marked by the Cross- Mercy

March 1 & 2

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...
I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The Apostle Paul

Personal/Small Group- Reflect & Comment on One of the Quotes

Israel's Disobedience: "praying on their knees in the temple and preying on their neighbors everywhere else." J.A. Motyer

Canaanite Religious Life: "Canaanite cultic religion allowed people to be personally immoral and unethical; they could still be right with the gods if they merely supported the cult enthusiastically." Douglas Stewart

Lutheranism (1912): "Thus far Lutheranism has buried its 10 talents in a tablecloth of dogmatic theory & kept its people from that share in the social awakening which is their duty and right." Walter Rauschenbusch

Large Group Teaching—God Described

Unique in Middle Eastern Religions- _____ is associated with _____

- Being _____ in mercy Dan. 9: 18
- _____ mercy (verb) 1 Kings 8: 50; Jer. 42:12
- _____ tied to mercy Ps. 42:9-11; Lam. 3: 19-24
- Used as _____ to describe Yahweh; often times paired with _____ Ex. 34:6; Ps. 86: 15; Joel 2: 13

Large Group Teaching—God's Image Described

Humanity, similar to God, is described very differently in the _____

- Humanity created in God's _____ Gen. 1: 26-28
- Humanity's _____ defined by God Gen. 1: 28
- Humanity's _____ defined by God Psalm 8 (v.5)
- Yahweh has deep _____ and _____ for people with _____; three _____ of Israel: _____, _____, and _____ highlight God's approach described in 1 Corinthians 1: 27-28; Isaiah 54:1; Luke 1: 7.

Large Group Teaching—Mercy in Relationship with the Law

Read Preamble of the Decalogue recorded in Exodus 20: 2.

In light of the Preamble and the narrative structure, Dr. Reed Lessing suggests consideration be given to these ideas:

1. Mercy is seen not as a _____ to the law as law, but as a response to the _____ acts of Yahweh's salvation.
2. The law is given to those _____ redeemed; acts of mercy are not a _____ to achieve salvation.
3. The shape the law takes in Israel's _____ is defined by the shape of the narrative action of _____. See Jesus' statement recorded in John, chapter 14, verse 12.
4. The _____ for following the law is drawn from Israel's _____ with Yahweh rather than from abstract _____ arguments or divine _____.

Large Group Teaching—Mercy in Action

Reflect upon this statement: "Mercy consists not of the _____, but of the _____."

Teachings from the Pentateuch:

- Exodus: 22: 20-26; 23: 3, 6, 9
- Lev. 19: 9-10, 13b, 33
- Deut. 15:2; 23:16, 20-21, 25, 26; 24: 10-15, 17-22

Teachings from the Pentateuch:

- Psalter: 72: 2-4; 12-14; 82: 3-4; 107: 41; 113: 7; 132: 15; 146: 7
- Proverbs: 14: 21, 31; 19: 17; 21: 13; 22: 9, 22, 23; 23: 10-11; 29: 7, 14; 31: 9, 20