

What was the point of the message on Sun.? Not sure? Well, if for some reason you missed it, no problem.

Here's The Point ...

“God’s Mercy Causes us to Live Differently.”

1. God’s Mercy Causes us to Let Go

How does an unrighteousness sinner become right with a righteous God? Is it something we must do? Some magical prayer we must say? When faced with the guilt and shame of sin, we often try to hide behind the fig leaves of our own good works, believing we are right with God on the merit of what we’ve done. But what we could not do for ourselves, God has does for us in Christ. This is seen in Genesis 3:21, as God sacrifices an innocent animal to make coverings for Adam and Eve. Here we are introduced to the Biblical concept of “atonement” – the death of an innocent sacrifice to cover the guilt of sin. This first sacrifice did not save Adam and Eve but served as the first of many sacrifices pointing to the final and sufficient sacrifice that would save them – Jesus Christ, the innocent Lamb of God who gave His life on the cross for our sins.

But notice, God, in His mercy, not only provided clothing for Adam and Eve, He also put it on them. It’s a humbling experience to be dressed by another, but that’s how we must come to God. “Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to the cross I cling; Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless look to Thee for grace.” Our pride often causes us to put up fig leaves as a cover because, conscious of our sin, we now believe we can’t be truly known and be truly loved at the same time. But **God’s mercy causes us to let go** of our attempts to hide and justify ourselves. Like the prodigal son, if we would but turn and trust in the mercy of our Heavenly Father alone, He is ready to dress us in the robe of His righteousness and welcome us back into right relationship with Him.

2. God’s Mercy Causes us to Look Forward

Where do we often turn when we’ve messed up? We turn back. We look to our past. We believe we can fix what went wrong in our own strength. In short, sin causes us to believe we can somehow be our own savior. And God knows this. In Genesis 3:22-23, God drives the man out from the Garden of Eden because eating from the tree of life would have caused Adam to live forever ... and that would mean living eternally in a fallen and sinful condition. Adam thought he knew what was best – to look backward. But God, in His mercy, causes Adam to look forward and live by faith. God wants us to know what it means to trust Him for our future, no matter what has happened in our past. The lie of the enemy is that our past has forfeited our future. As a result, we often dwell in the past instead of looking in faith to how God can turn things around. Like Peter, who denied Christ three times, we must believe that our past failures with God have not forfeited our future for God. Peter experienced what we must experience – that God’s mercy is greater than our mistakes. **God’s mercy causes us to look forward** and trust that He alone can turn a broken past into a beautiful future.

3. God’s Mercy Causes us to Love Christ

In Genesis 3:24, we learn that access into the perfect presence of God is now guarded by cherubim with a flaming sword that turned every way. This was portrayed on the Ark of the Covenant (see Ex. 25:18-21) and on the veil in the tabernacle and temple that guarded the Holy of Holies (see Ex. 26:31). The cherubim served as a reminder that the only way man can enter back into the presence of God is for one who is perfect to come under the sword of judgment. This is precisely what happened in the death of Christ. In His love for us, the only perfect Man went under the sword of judgment in our place. As Jesus died the veil in the temple was torn in two (see Lk. 23:45), a symbol that His death alone was sufficient to provide access into the perfect presence of our Holy God. Christ chose to obey the Father’s command regarding a tree of death, and He turned the cross into our tree of life. We must never lose sight of the cross, for the more we experience God’s mercy in Christ and learn about our Savior, the more we will love Him. **God’s mercy causes us to love Christ.**