



Session 3 Living in the Power of God's Forgiveness

I. RICH IN MERCY BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT LOVE

- A. In order to live in the power of the Gospel, the power of God's forgiveness, you need to understand God's lovingkindness, His *hesed*.

Psalm 103:8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy (hesed).

- B. God's name, the core reality of Who He is as revealed in Ps. 103:8, was perfectly demonstrated in Jesus' ministry and through the work of the cross. Paul describes this reality of Psalm 103:8 being fulfilled in Christ as follows:

Ephesians 2:4-6 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...6 raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

- C. Because of God's great love, He demonstrated His mercy to you. He took you from the pit of destruction, from being dead in your sins, and made you alive, elevating you to the highest place in heaven where He sits, and crowning you as a King to rule with Him!

Psalm 103: Who forgives all your iniquities

Psalm 103: 4 Who redeems your life from (the pit of) destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

- D. God wants you to remember ALL His benefits. (Ps. 103:2-6) Jesus is the gift of God in whom all gifts, benefits, reside. (John 4:10)

II. THE FIRST SIN AND MAN'S RESPONSE

- A. From the fulness of God's love Adam and Eve were created. The first recorded conversations between God and Adam concerned both a blessing and a command, which came from His heart of love for them, because He ardently desired to see His children prosper in all that they set their hands to.

- B. Why did God just not give Adam and Eve a blessing? Why did He also give them a commandment? In our Psalms 1 series, we understood that He wanted to give them a choice. However, God also is a good Father. Therefore, He was wanting to keep His children safe, so gave them a commandment, an instruction of love. followed by letting them know the consequences if they did not obey.

Genesis 2:17 God clearly told Adam ...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

- C. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God's love commandment. They chose to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God had commanded them not to. The bondage that Adam and Eve and therefore the whole human race came under until the time of Jesus Christ is known as "*the law of sin and death.*" *Romans 8:2*

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death

- D. God provided them with two trees that stood in the midst of the garden. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was rooted in the law, and the tree of life was rooted in God's *hesed*, which overflowed with His mercy and grace. (Eph. 3:17; Eph. 2:4)

- E. With an overwhelming consciousness of their sin, fear consumed them. Their spirit man died. The glory of God that once covered them was no longer there, and they saw that they were naked. (Gen. 3:10) They hid among the trees and tried to cover their nakedness and shame by clothing themselves with fig leaves. (Gen. 3:7) Adam blamed God and Eve. And, Eve blamed satan. Neither one, took full responsibility for their sin.

Genesis 3:12-13 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." ... 13 The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- F. **Personal Application**: What is learned about sin through Adam and Eve's life?

Sin often produces 3 things: guilt, blame, and shame. Learn how to respond to sin and what it produces in a godly fashion.

1. **GUILT** - When you are conscious of something you have done wrong, admit to your wrong doing.
2. **BLAME** - Instead of blaming others, even if you feel they played a huge role in provoking you to sin, accept the fact that ultimately you had a choice and you chose to commit the sin.
3. **SHAME** - Allow the shame, the humiliation or distress, you are feeling coupled with the desire to cover-up the sin or the whole truth, be a sign-post to you to repent.

Allow these 3 things above to alert you to the fact that you have sinned and need to repent.

REPENT

1. "Change of Mind" (*metanoia* – Greek word for repent)
 - a. Break agreement with your words and actions that have contradicted His command. Ask God's forgiveness.
 - b. Agree with God's Word, His command, choosing to believe it and obey it.
2. Engage in the Exchange of the Cross
 - a. Give Jesus your sin(s), your misbehavior(s) or mistake(s), asking God's forgiveness.
 - b. Take/Receive Jesus' forgiveness and righteousness
3. Bless the Lord – Thankfully Come into Agreement with Who God is and who You are in Jesus Christ

Who God is:

- a. Thank-You Jesus that You are the One Who forgives all sins. (Ps. 103:2)

- Thank-You Jesus that You have forgiven me of all my sins and have made me righteous, justifying me - making me “just-as-if-I’d” never sinned. (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:28, 5:1)
- b. Thank-You Jesus for remembering my sins no more. (Heb. 8:12; 10:17; Ps. 103:12)
 - c. Thank-You Jesus for having removed all the shame and condemnation from my life. (Rom. 8:1)

Who I am in Christ

- a. I am forgiven.
 - b. I am justified.
 - c. I am not condemned.
 - d. I am the righteousness of God in Christ!
4. Cooperate with God's grace in His restoration process of what has been lost or broken. Follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit in what He is calling you to do so that you can live in the freedom Jesus Christ as purchased for you.

III. GOD'S RESPONSE TO MAN'S SIN

- A. One of the first things God did for Adam and Eve was to sacrifice animals so that Adam and Eve's sin could be covered by the substitutionary shed blood, as they were sent out from the garden of Eden and into the world.
Genesis 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.
- B. From the very beginning of time God had introduced the idea that blood was required to atone for man's sin.
Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.
Hebrews 9:22 ... without shedding of blood there is no remission.
1. Under the Old Covenant requirements were given by God for how the sacrificial blood of animals should be offered to atone for man's sin throughout the year, as God knew the mankind could never keep the “Law.”
 2. On the day of Atonement, one of the most important festivals for the Israelites, the high priest was commanded to make an offering of two goats. (Leviticus 16)
 - a. With the sacrificial blood of one goat, the high priest went into the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the Israelites sin
 - b. With another goat the high priest laid his hands on its head confessing over it all the Israelite's sin, symbolically transferring the sins of the people to this goat.
- C. This temporary solution under the Old Covenant was a foreshadowing of what God would do through the New Covenant of Jesus' sinless spotless blood shed on the cross, which would not only make atonement for mankind's sin, but completely take away sins:
Psalm 103:12 “as far as the east is from the west” =
Rom. 8:12; 10:17 “Remember them no more” (Is. 43:25)

Psalm 103:17 "from everlasting to everlasting."

Hebrews 10:12 After He(Jesus) had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.

- D. The sacrificial blood under the Old Covenant could not take away sins. Only Jesus' blood could take away the sins of the world.

*Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.
John 1:29 ... Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

IV. FORGIVENESS AND REMEMBERING SIN NO MORE

- A. The Old Testament prophesied about a new covenant that God would make with man.

Jeremiah 31:31,34 Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... 34 ...For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

- B. At the last supper, the Passover meal, Jesus declares the institution of God's new covenant with man which was prophesied by Jeremiah.

I Corinthians 11:25 At the last supper Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in My Blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- C. Paul emphasized the main clause of the new covenant as he quotes from Jeremiah 31: 31-34.

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.

Hebrews 10:17 Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.

- D. Knowing and believing the main clause of the New Covenant sets the stage for you to enter with great confidence and assurance of faith by the blood of Jesus, the new and living, into God's presence - into the Holy of Holies - to fully partake of all the benefits that belong to you in Christ.

Hebrews 10:19-22 ... having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...

V. PSALM 103 REFLECTIONS REGARDING FORGIVENESS

- A. God's *hesed* is shown in the first gift He gave to mankind ever since Adam and Eve's sin. Therefore, it is no surprise that it is the first and foremost on the list of God's benefits in Psalm 103:3-5.

Psalm 103:2, 3 Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities...

- B. From the beginning of time, God chose to not deal with mankind according to their sins.

Psalm 103:10 (God) He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.

Romans 3:25 NIV in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.

1. God covered Adam and Eve with “tunics of skin.”
 2. Under the Old Covenant God made His ways of mercy known to Moses and to the Israelites.
 3. King David, who is the writer of Psalm 103, received God’s unfailing mercy when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and the murdered her husband Uriah. (See Ps. 51)
 4. Psalm 103:10 has its fullest meaning in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ died on the cross “as you” – as your substitute. Jesus took your punishment of death, so that you could have His abundant life.
- C. God demonstrated the height, width, length of His abounding mercy, His *hesed*, for His children – for Adam and Eve, for the Israelites, for those who turned to God, for you and I, in response to our sin.

- Height of God’s *Hesed* – His Mercy

Psalm 103:11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy towards those who fear Him.

- Width of God’s *Hesed* – Mercy

Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

- Length of God’s *Hesed* – His Mercy

Psalm 103:17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting towards those who fear Him.... 18 to those who remember His commandments to do them.

- D. In Pauls’ prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 he prays: “...***That (you) may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge... Eph. 1:18-19*** When you sin, immerse yourself in width, length, and height of His love, His mercy.
- E. God is our Father. God pitied Adam and Eve as He does all of us who are His children. He knew our frame. He remembered that we are created from dust. Therefore, God does not deal with His children as we deserve.

Psalm 103:13 As a father pities (has compassion on) his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. 14 For He ^{to}knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

VI. COVERED BY THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. Although Adam and Eve’s spirit man became void of the life of God after they sinned, God made a tunic from an animal sacrificed on their behalf and covered their shame and nakedness with it.

Genesis 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

- B. Jesus told us a parable about Father God’s *hesed*, His merciful love, towards His children (towards you and I) in what is known as the prodigal son story.

Luke 15:20-22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him....'"

Psalm 103:13 As a father pities (has compassion on) his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him.

- C. Even though the prodigal son was still "a great way off his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. Immediately, Father God covered the wayward son with the "best robe" – the robe of righteousness. What robe is this? It is the robe of Jesus Christ Himself, Who is "*The Lord Our Righteousness.*" *Jeremiah 23:6*

Isaiah 61:10 My soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

- D. At the cross Jesus allowed His robe (of righteousness) to be physically and spiritually taken from Him.

John 19:23 Then the soldiers ... took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece.

- E. At the cross Jesus has offered you His robe of righteousness, if you would give him your filthy garments of sin. (Zech. 3:3)

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (Jesus Christ).

- F. **Personal Application #1**

Bless the Lord by thanking Him for His robe of righteousness. Take His robe as a gift He has given to you and wear it daily, instead of keeping it in your closet. When you have sinned, repent, and declare: "Even though I have sinned, I am still the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus."

Personal Application #2

Cover the sins of others, especially those who have sinned against you. Choose to forgive others as Christ has forgiven you.

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Col. 3:13 NIV Forgive as the Lord forgave you.'

Forgiveness Testimony: Visit www.camarillohealingrooms.com and click on written testimonies. Under "Testimony Categories" click on "Nightmares". Read "Nightly Nightmares for Over 40 Years Gone after Choosing to Forgive".

Personal Application #3 Jesus gave us a protocol to follow if someone in Christ has sinned against us. (Matthew 18:15-18; 5:21-24)

1. Tell the person their fault directly - just between you and that other person.

2. If that person won’t listen to you, bring 2 or more people with you.
3. Bring it before the church. If the person refuses to listen, dismiss that person from the church.

VII. THE POWER OF JESUS’ BLOOD – REDEMPTION FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

- A. The price of mankind’s redemption from the kingdom of sin and death was high. It demanded perfect sinless blood, which could only be found in God Himself. God’s only Son became man and died on the tree of Calvary, paying for man’s redemption through His own blood.

1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

- B. The Tree of Calvary, the Cross, was the only way man could be redeemed from slavery - from imprisonment to sin, the law, and death and made alive in Christ.

Colossians 2:14-15 14 having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

1. Sin - Col. 2:14 having forgiven you all trespasses

Ps. 103:2 who forgives all your iniquities.

ALL your sins (past, present, and future) were erased from your records in the courtroom of heaven. Your debt was paid in full by Jesus Christ on the cross through the shedding of His precious blood.

2. Law – Col. 2:14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements (the Law) that was against us, which was contrary to us. And has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

The law that satan used as a weapon against your life to accuse and to condemn of your sins has been taken out of the way and nailed to the cross.

3. Death- Col. 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

VIII. CERTIFICATE OF DEBT – SIN DEBT

- A. Written on the “Certificate of Debt” nailed to the prison door of a person found guilty of a crime:
1. Accusations – A list of the crimes the person was being accused of
 2. Penalty – The punishment for the crime
- B. Written on the “Certificate of Debt once the person paid the penalty for their crime was “TETELESTAI” – the Greek word for “paid in full”.

C. The “certificate of debt” with “tetelestai” on it was carried around with that person, so they could rest in the freedom of not having to pay that penalty for their crime ever again, especially if they were accused.

D. Jesus Paid Our Certificate of Debt in Full

1. Capital Offense - If a person was found guilty of a capital offense, they would be sentenced to death. Above their head on the cross, they would nail the “certificate of debt.”
2. The accusation written over Jesus’ head on the cross: **“Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”**
John 19:19
3. While Jesus was hanging on the cross he cried out, “Tetelestai” – “It is finished.” John 19:30 The sin debt of the whole human race had been “paid in full” by the spotless blood of Jesus Christ.
4. *Tetelestai*, “paid in full” is Jesus’ victory cry over sin, the law, and death.
5. Forgiven means to be granted pardon.

Colossians 2:13 having forgiven you all trespasses

Psalms 103:3 Who forgives all your iniquities