

TAKING CARE OF GOD

In Genesis 18, we have a fascinating account of Abraham taking care of God. In Genesis 18, we read about God appearing to Abraham in the form of a human male along with two angels. When Abraham opened his eyes and saw that He was there, he immediately wanted to show them hospitality by providing water for their feet, rest under the tree, and food to eat (Gen. 18.4,5).

How interesting that God ate, drank, and rested. If you skip down to verse 8, it says that Abraham served them a meal and “stood by them under the tree as they ate” (Gen. 18.8). Later in the chapter, God reminds Abraham of His promise. When Sarah laughed, God said, “Is there anything too hard for the Lord?” (Gen. 18.14). God could have anything He wanted. Yet He allowed Abraham to provide food and rest.

Is it possible for you and I to take care of God? God has always provided for our needs? But is it possible to provide for God’s needs? We are told in Acts 17.25 that we cannot worship God, “as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.” In other words, God expects us to worship Him as a benefit to us. But God does not need our worship, and in fact, He does not need anything.

But there is a sense in which we can provide for God. Consider the words of Jesus as He gives us a preview of the day of Judgment. In Matthew 25, all of humanity is divided into two groups: Those who will be sent to eternal condemnation, and those who will be welcomed into eternal life. The difference between these two groups is how they treated the king. Jesus said that they were welcomed into eternal life because, “I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me” (Matt. 25.35,36).

The king represented Jesus (Matt. 25.31). Jesus was hungry? Jesus was thirsty? When? Jesus then explains, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” How we treat our fellow man is how we treat Jesus. What we do to our fellow man, we are doing to Jesus (1 Cor. 8.12). God may not have needs, but people do. So help those who are in need. Because to love others is to love God. CLP

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

August 7, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

“HOW GREAT THOU ART”

In 1885, Carl Boberg was walking home on afternoon near Kronoback, Sweden when suddenly a violent thunderstorm appeared. As he was caught up in the unexpected downpour, the deafening claps of thunder, the blinding lightening as it leaped from cloud to cloud, he quickly made his way home. When he arrived, he noticed that the storm had dissipated just as quickly as it appeared. He opened up his windows and took in the crisp clean air. As he gazed upon the beautiful Monstera Bay, inspiration struck him. It was then that he penned the words to the now famous song, “How Great Thou Art”.

When we behold the wondrous creation around us, we cannot help but be awe struck with the greatest and majesty of God. With the vastness and beauty of the creation, how much more is the God who created it? We ask, as David did when he considered the heavens, the moon, and stars, “What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” (Ps. 8.3,4).

How awe-inspired we are at the thought of such a great God, but we are moved even more by the greatness of His love. The love of God was bestowed upon those who do not deserve it. In spite of all we have chosen to be, “the love of God has been poured out in our hearts” in that Christ died for us. (Rom. 5.5,6).

PSALMS FOR THE TROUBLED SOUL

PSALM 23:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. In times of grief, where can we turn for relief? The book of Psalms can bring relief to the troubled soul.
2. The book of Psalms contains three types of songs sung in Old Testament worship: Problems, Prayers, Praise.

I. THE ENVELOPMENT OF GRIEF

- A. In Psalm 6, David feel enveloped by his grief.
 1. **PSALM 6.1-3:** “Do not rebuke me in Your anger.”
 2. **PSALM 6.4-6:** “Return, O LORD, deliver me.” David pleads with God to come back to him.
 3. **PSALM 6.7-10:** “The Lord has heard the voice of my weeping.” David finally finds relief.
- B. If you feel like David, you will feel enveloped by grief.
 1. It will be hard to get up in the morning. (Ps. 6.2)
 2. It will be hard to get through the day. (Ps. 6.4,5)
 3. It will be hard to sleep at night. (Ps. 6,6,7)

II. THE EXPECTATIONS OF GRIEF

- A. In Psalm 13, there were some things David felt.
 1. **PSALM 13.1-4:** David felt like God was not there.
 2. **PSALM 13.5,6:** David remembered to trust in God.
- B. What can you expect when you are grieving?
 1. Grief will feel unending. (Ps. 13.1,2)
 2. God will feel distant. (Ps. 13.1)
 3. Prayers will feel futile. (Ps. 13.3; James 5.16; Job 21.15)

III. THE ENDURANCE OF GRIEF

- A. We can learn contentment. (Ps. 23.1)
 1. **PSALM 23.2:** Take time for yourself.
 2. **PSALM 23.3:** Give your heart to God. (Heb. 13.5,6)
 3. **PSALM 23.3:** Always do what is right.
- B. We can overcome fear.
 1. **PSALM 23.4:** God is there. (Ps. 139.7-12)
 2. **PSALM 23.4:** God cares. (1 Pet. 5.7)
 3. **PSALM 23.5:** God prepares. (Phil. 4.19)
- C. We can learn to be confident. (Ps. 23.6)

CONCLUSION: Is the LORD your Shepherd?

TREATING YOUR ENEMIES LIKE FAMILY

Psalm 35 was written by David during a time when he was the target of his enemies. They were pursuing him, plotting against him, and even sought to take his life. All through this psalm, David pleads to God for help. He asks God to “*fight against those who fight against me*” (Ps. 35.1). He pleads with God to “*let those be turned back...who plot my hurt*” (Ps. 35.4). With God on his side, no enemy would prevail against him. So David was “*joyful in the Lord*” and gives praise to God (Ps. 35.9).

Among the words of this psalm, David writes about how he regards his enemies. They abuse and mistreat David. In contrast, David writes, “*But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart*” (Ps. 35.13). His enemies rejoiced when trouble came into David’s life. But when his enemies suffered, David mourned for them and prayed for them.

In the very next verse, David continues to write about how he feels about his enemies. Verse 14 says, “*I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother.*” I find that incredible! The enemies of David sought to take his life. But when tragedy fell upon his enemies, David was as concerned about their welfare as he would be for a friend, brother, or even his own mother. Is it any wonder why God described as a “*man after My own heart*” (Acts 13.22).

The last verse of Matthew 5 calls on us to “*be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect*” (Matt. 5.48). Contextually, Jesus is referring to the way that God loves. God loves even those who are His enemies. He “*makes His sun rise on the evil and good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust*” (Matt. 5.45). If we want to be the sons of God, we also must love perfectly as God does. Our enemies are to be treated like we would treat our friends, our brethren, or even our own mothers (Matt. 5.43,44).

It is easy to love those who love you (Matt. 5.46). But if we do, “*what do you do more than others?*” (Matt. 5.47). In other words, loving our friends and family and hating our enemies makes us just like everyone else. But everyone including those who seek to harm us makes us different from the world and identifiable as followers of Jesus. After all, Jesus said, “*By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another*” (John 13.35). CLP