

“Trust and Mercy”
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Psalms 18:30 ...He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him.

John 13:13-17 ...The servant is not greater than his Lord...

Our Scripture text here takes place after the Lord Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11), after people were being drawn to the Lord in droves because of this great miracle (John 11-13), after they had laid palm leaves in His path as He entered Jerusalem (John 12), after the Last Supper, and before they came to take the Lord away.

The Lord humbled Himself, and washed the feet of the Disciples. There are huge lessons for all of us in this text on how we ought to behave one to another. He has given us an example on how to follow Him, and as we enter pre-Easter it would be good to visit, but our focus today will be on verse 16: “...The servant is not greater than his Lord...”

There is a reason this passage is in the Word of God, brothers and sisters. The Lord knew that we, as a people, would get around to distancing ourselves from Him, His Word, his life...and still want all His glory, His rewards. Saints, that’s just the way the flesh is—give me as much as I can get for as little effort or work as possible. And why not? Who wants to work if they don’t have to? But we do have to be careful not to get too smart, convenient and lazy when it comes to living our lives in the Lord.

If I can be a little real this morning, brothers and sisters, the war is on. The world will tell you that, “You don’t have to serve the Lord or obey His Word—after all, that book is dated; we’re living in modern times,” or anything else that can appease our conscience and get us to choose the world over God, but when we look at what God has done for us, we see that the world doesn’t have our soul in its best interests.

John 15:19-20 ...If you were of the world, the world would love its own...

Why do we suffer and go through trials and tribulations in this world? Because our Lord suffered in this world, and we are not greater than our Master. The Lord said that He prayed not that we would be taken out of the world, but kept from the evil of the world (John 17:15). Why not take us out of the world? Because we’ve been born again. God put His Spirit in us and made us of His light. No man lights a candle and puts it under a bushel (Matthew 5:15), but makes it for all the world to see—including our Heavenly Father. So, wherever you go, God says, “See there—there’s My light.” Show the world. The light is supposed to make a difference. When Jesus walked the earth, people who had needs came to Him. People who didn’t want to accept His Spirit persecuted Him, and brought railing accusations. “The servant is not greater than his master.” If we suffer with Him, we shall reign with Him.

2 Timothy 2:12 ...If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him...

Now, know this: All of creation has been waiting for this time; for the manifestation of the sons and daughters of God. You know how a family waits for a mother to bear a child? Grandparents, fathers, aunts, and uncles look so forward to the bringing forth of a babe. And when that baby comes, look at the rejoicing! Everybody wants to see. They sometimes take the baby on tours, and when people hear that it's there, they show up for a visit—those who can't, want to see a picture. Did you know it's like that in God's family? When a soul is added to the Kingdom, you can't even imagine the seraphims and cherubims and the archangels—the joy they give in the presence of God Almighty (Luke 15:10). Can you just hear the songs that they sing and the shouts that they give, and all of God's creation join to praise Him for what he's done? It would blow our minds if we could just get a glimpse...

Psalms 36:5-10 ...children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings...

We see in verse 5 that His mercy reaches to Heaven, and in verse 7, His lovingkindness is excellent, therefore we trust Him; so, there is a relationship between His mercy and our trust. We have talked a little about us trusting God, now a little bit about His mercy.

Lamentations 3:21-26 ...It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed...

Many of you have heard that I was in a car accident recently, and I want to thank each and every one of you who sent prayers and well wishes. I tried to change lanes, because the car in front of me signaled to turn. I did not know that I was on a sheet of ice. My back end swung toward the car in front of me, so I accelerated towards the grass to avoid hitting that car. That would have been fine, except for that big tree... I swerved, trying not to hit the tree, which swung my back end around, and shot me back into the street and traffic—sideways. The next thing I knew I was rolling over and over. The only movement I could do was to throw my elbows up to try to protect my head from the roof caving in, but, really, can I lift 6500 pounds with my elbows?

Saints it is of our God's great mercy that I am here today. And not me only, Brother Tom Hanson was in a terrible car accident years ago. Brother Tom, how long were you in the hospital? A month. Did everyone survive? Seven people were killed. Ed Howes was also in a bad accident. How long were you in the hospital? A week and a half. There are others here that can say that they were in an accident in a car, or at work, and you know it was the hand of God that kept you. Maybe you know someone in your family, or a friend, that something happened and you know it was nothing but God Almighty that made the difference.

It is easy to take the Lord's deliverance for granted. When we are in the midst of a battle, we wonder, but when God delivers us, He often does it so thoroughly that we have a tendency to wonder what all the fuss was about.

If I can make myself a little more clear this morning about His mercy and grace: I've heard it said that He is the God of a second chance, but if you know like I know, He's not just the God of a second chance, but He's God of a third and a fourth and a twentieth and a hundredth, and if you are anything like me, then you know that God is well into the thousandths. Oh, thank God for His mercy that endureth forever. This is

the heritage of them that trust God—we know that He is God alone and there is none beside Him. When you trust God, you find Him to be the Rose of Sharron, the Lily of the valley, the Bright and Morning Star, the Balm of Gilead, and the Great I Am. When we trust God, we find Him to be our medicine when we are sick, our heat when we're cold, food on our table, rent, transportation, peace of mind, breath in our lungs, and even words in our mouths.

I'm not confused about this: I live because of Him, I breathe because of Him, I see because of Him; in fact, the Scripture says that every good and perfect gift cometh from the Father-of-lights (James 1:17).

Revelations 4:10-11 ...for thy pleasure they are and were created.

