

Lesson 20 Grace and Mercy

Reflection

Who is the most generous person we know? What has this person done to show such generosity?

Inspiration from the Holy Bible

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. (Matthew 5:7)

Inspiration from the Holy Qur'an

"And He (God) answers those who believe and do good works, and gives them more out of His Grace." (Surah Ash-Shura 42:26)

"Upon those who believed and did good works shall The Most Gracious [God] bestow [His] Love." (Surah Maryam 19:96)

Hadith

Ibn Abbas, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, related that Prophet Muhammad (may Allah be pleased with him), said Allah the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful said: "Verily Allah (SWT) has written down the good deeds and the evil deeds, and then explained it [by saying]: Whosoever intended to perform a good deed, but did not do it, then Allah writes it down with Himself as a complete good deed. And if he intended to perform it and then did perform it, then Allah writes down with Himself as from ten good deeds up to seven hundred times, up to many illnesses multiplied. And if he intended to perform an evil deed, but did not do it, then Allah writes it down with Himself as a complete good deed. And if he intended it [i.e. the evil deed] and then performed it, then

Allah writes it down as one evil deed. (Bukhari Muslim)

Why are God's grace and mercy Important to us?

- a. Grace means God blesses us even when we do not deserve it. He generously provides everything that we need. He blesses us with more than we need so that we can be a blessing to others.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

- b. Mercy means God does not punish us even when we deserve it. He is always ready and willing to forgive our sins if we confess them to Him. His mercies never end; they are new every morning. He gives us endless opportunities to redeem and restore ourselves.

O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help. (Psalm 86:5)

- c. God's grace saves us, helps us overcome weakness, and allows us to experience victory over sin. Grace also develops in us the "fruits of the Spirit which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. Titus 2:11)

Challenge

What is our most significant learning today? How will we apply it to our own life?

Prayer

Praise God for His goodness and grace in our life. Ask forgiveness for our sins. Thank Him for the blessings we have received.

If we have any prayer requests, let us pray for one another.

We end the meeting with this declaration of faith: Lord, teach us to realize that life is short, so that we may grow in wisdom. Guard our minds, hearts and tongues so that our thoughts, words and deeds focus on things that are excellent and worthy of pennies. Help us to speak words of faith, words of power, words of love and words of life to our families and to each other. Encourage us to count our blessings and be grateful for everything You have given.