

God's Love is Shown-Compassionate Love

Sermon Outline (Psalm 103:8-13 and Luke 15:11-32)

- I God's unconditional love is found throughout the Bible.
 - A. Human love can be based on familiarity.
 - 1. We love our own kids more than others.
 - 2. In marriage we commit ourselves to loving another.
 - 3. The bond between parent/child is unconditional.
 - B. Unconditional love in Old Testament described in Psalm 103
 - 1. vs.8 God's compassionate, gracious, slow to anger.
 - 2. God doesn't treat us as our sins deserve.
 - 3. David received God's forgiveness after he sinned; David repented & his relationship w/God was restored; D wrote
 - 4. "as a father has compassion on his children..so Lord has"
 - C. Greatest compassion: Jesus' death on cross=our atonement
 - 1. Rm. 8:5, "God's love=while we're sinners Christ died.
 - 2. Jesus took penalty for our sins- so we are "not guilty".
 - 3. Jn 3:16 "for God so loved world-gave his only Son.."
 - 4. God didn't wait for us to turn to him-he came to us in JC
 - D. Jewish leaders couldn't understand God seeks/saves the lost
 - 1. Didn't know God "cleans the fish after He catches 'em."
 - 2. Didn't have compassion on sinners; condemned them
 - 3. Didn't conceive of a God who searches for sinners
- II J's parables described a God who's joyful when sinners return
 - A. 3 parables in Lk 15 describe-rejoicing when lost is found.
 - B. Prodigal Son treated dad badly-but joyfully welcomed home
 - 1. Selfishly demanded his inheritance early & squandered it
 - 2. Dad was watching/waiting eagerly for sons' return.
 - 3. Dad held no grudge; he embraced him and celebrated.
 - C. This is the same kind of love God has for us-compassionate
 - 1. May give-up on ourselves; God's love doesn't give-up
 - 2. He gives us grace to keep loving our family/children.
 - 3. He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us forgive others.
 - 4. Forgiveness/relief as Prodigal Son & Father embraced but elder brother not ready to forgive-he voices what religious leaders feel about Jesus being with sinners.
- III Seek & give forgiveness; rest-in & give God's compassion!