



Hill Cliffe Study Guide
Sunday 14 Jan 2024
#2 The Compassionate & Gracious God

1. What impacted you most from the Sermon on Sunday?

Please read again Exodus 33.18 – 34.8

Today we focus on Yahweh's self-description in ch34.6: **the compassionate and gracious God. Compassionate or merciful** – (*raham* in Hebrew), meaning, God's Heart goes out to you – when you call out to Him from your plight / danger / distress / sinfulness.

Gracious – (*hannun* in Hebrew), meaning, God responds by doing something about your need with lavish generosity (seen principally in the sending/ coming of Jesus).

Please read Deuteronomy 4. 25-31; 30.19-20

Despite God's clear and repeated warnings, many of the Israelites did turn away from the Lord and became corrupt. And just as God promised – those who did experienced the full and awful consequences of their choices.

2. How does this passage reveal that in keeping His promises, God is not a 'tame lion' / a domestic pet?
3. To whom does God show mercy? & Who receives God's Mercy?

Please read Luke 15.17-24

4. How does this parable of Jesus reveal the compassion of God and the grace of God to the returning prodigal?
5. What might have happened if the elder brother had met the prodigal before the father?
6. How might you become less like the elder son and more like the father in your relationships with people who have hurt or disrespected you?

Please read Psalm 78.22-39

7. How does this passage help us to grasp the extent of God's mercy towards repeat offenders?
8. How do **verses 38-39**, and **Hebrews 4.15-16** help us understand why we can be confident in receiving mercy (even as repeat offenders) when we approach God in our time of need?

In the story of Jonah, we discovered that Jonah was reluctant to go to Israel's godless and brutal enemy, the Assyrians, with God's message of warning. Mainly because he suspected that God's mercy and grace would extend even to them! He thought that if the Assyrians called out to God to save them – God would show them mercy and grace. And he was right!

9. This seemed all wrong to Jonah. Does the wideness of God's mercy seem wrong to you?
10. How does Jesus' command his disciples in **Luke 6.35-36** to be merciful like God?
11. How is God pro-active (and not passive) in showing mercy to enemies, and how might we?