

Bible Way Church

OF ATLANTA ROAD

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

The Second Chance Series

SERMON 3: “New Mercies”

Jeremiah 18:1 - 6 (NKJV)

Lamentations 3:22 – 23 (KJV)

Pastor Darrell Jackson, Sr.

- The word ‘mercy’ is one of the most prominent words in all of the scriptures.
- It is defined in Webster’s Dictionary as “compassion or forbearance shown to an offender (clemency).”
- Mercy is also defined as “divine favor.”
- The Bible indicates that mercy is an essential quality of God's character.
- Deuteronomy 4:31 says to Israel, “for the Lord thy God is a merciful God...”.
- Mercy is also a benefit we enjoy as a result of serving God.
- David tells us in Psalm 23:6, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...”.
- Even the Apostle Paul in the New Testament recognized that it was God's divine favor that made it possible for him to accomplish the things that he did.

“Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great...” (Acts 26:22)

- Both of these passages were recorded by the Prophet Jeremiah.
- Both share a similar theme of God's mercy; one indirectly, the other directly.
- In Jeremiah 18, God shared with His prophet an indirect lesson concerning God's mercy.
- The lesson occurred at the potter’s house.
- The Lord told Jeremiah to go there and watch, just watch, and do nothing else.

Continued on the other side

- What did Jeremiah see?
 - He saw a potter making a vessel with clay.
 - The potter noticed that the vessel was damaged. The text says it was "marred".
 - The potter was not willing to throw the vessel away; so he made it again into another vessel.

- What did he learn?
 - God was the Potter.
 - The nation of Israel was the clay.
 - They too, like the clay, were damaged or marred.
 - But, they were still in His hands.
 - So God, as the potter did the clay, made Israel again. He gave them another chance.

- The real application for us is found in Jeremiah's words in the book of Lamentations:

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness".

- Thank God for *New Mercies*...

...He gave us another chance!