

THE TWO WATCHMEN

God has two watchmen – grace and mercy – waiting at the throne of grace to be deployed in our lives.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ A "watchman" is a guard or sentinel, whose job it is to keep on the lookout to protect their place of service.
- ❖ God has two watchmen that He has sent to watch over each and every one of us. But who are they?
- ❖ The two watchmen are quite evident in the story of Samson (Judges 13-16). We look at his story as a cautionary tale; a reminder of what can happen to us when we allow the enemy to manipulate us and cause us to deviate from the path God has set for our lives.
- ❖ Yet, despite Samson's wayward ways, he had a "prodigal son" moment where he 'came to himself' and prayed to God for one more chance to use his strength to defeat the Philistines (Judges 16:28-30).
- ❖ God showed mercy and Samson was able to collapse the temple where the Philistines were gathered to celebrate, mocking both Samson and God. Although this act ended his own life, it also took the lives of these enemies of Israel and was Samson's greatest victory.
- ❖ So, Samson's story is not just a cautionary tale; it's also a reminder that God's **grace and mercy** is available to us even when we put ourselves in difficult situations as a result of our own bad choices.
- ❖ Turning now to the story of David (from 1 Samuel 16 to 2 Kings 2), we read about his triumphs and we read about his failures. We read how David chose to ignore a conflict between two of his sons, which led to the murder of one son and eventually plunged the nation of Israel into a civil war in which the other was killed.
- ❖ David's actions toward Bathsheba and Uriah, alone, violated at least three of the Ten Commandments and, according to Old Testament law, David deserved death as punishment for his behaviour.
- ❖ Despite all of this, the two watchmen were very evident in David's life. In fact, he acknowledged them in Psalms 23:6: "Surely **goodness and mercy** shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
- ❖ God extended mercy towards David and from David's lineage came the King of Kings, Jesus our Saviour.
- ❖ Jonah, the disobedient and vengeful prophet, also recognized God's watchmen as he complained to God: ... "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a **gracious and merciful** God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm." (Jonah 4:2)

KEY SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:16

- ❖ If it wasn't for the two watchmen we wouldn't be here today. God's grace and mercy has protected us from accidents and dangers. But it goes beyond that. God's grace transcends the physical realm; it goes beyond what we can see. The grace that God gives is also a saving grace.
- ❖ But can we be confident and assured, like David, that grace and mercy are following us all the days of our life?
- ❖ Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." We can go **BOLDLY** to the throne of grace and waiting for us are the two watchmen!
- ❖ When the enemy tries to bring up your past and make you feel guilt and shame, go to the throne where you can obtain mercy and find grace.
- ❖ When you are dealing with something that seems like it will overwhelm you, go to the throne to obtain mercy and find grace.
- ❖ Maybe your life is not going as you think it should, or as you planned: go to the throne to obtain mercy and find grace.
- ❖ Even when you are facing something that you think you can handle, go to the throne to obtain mercy and find grace.
- ❖ Maybe life is good, everything is going well, you have food on the table, money in the bank, nice car in the driveway, good job: head to the throne to obtain mercy and find grace.
- ❖ Because there will never be a time that you do not need God's mercy and grace following you.
- ❖ The two watchmen are a reminder that God is with you, that He will never leave nor forsake you.
- ❖ God has two watchmen called **grace and mercy** and they are waiting at the throne of grace to be deployed in our lives.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Look up definitions for "mercy" and "grace" and discuss what you find. What is your current definition of mercy and of grace?
2. Read and discuss the following scriptures: Lamentations 3: 22, 23, Psalm 59:16, 17, 86:13; Psalm 51:1; Luke 18:9-13. {What do they teach us about the grace and mercy of God?}
3. Thank God for His grace and mercy.

PRAYER TIME

Lord, thank You for continuing to let Your grace and Your mercv watch over me. In Jesus' name.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Have you ever escaped a consequence or punishment that you deserved? How did you feel before and after?