



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Jubilee – Year of Celebration of the Lord
Topic	Celebrate the Lord’s Mercies and Compassions (Psalm 103)
Speaker	Pastor Jason Teo
Date	14 th & 15 th February 2015

Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: Responding to the depth of the Lord’s Mercies and Compassions

Pastor Jason opened his message by outlining 4 main points which Psalms 103 speaks of.

- #1: Celebrate His Mercies as by them we are not Consumed
- #2: Celebrate His Mercies as by them we find Hope
- #3: Celebrate His Compassion as God is Moved by It
- #4: Celebrate God for He is Great and Good

It is important to note that while these are presented as singular points, there are recurring themes and a common call to action (more on this later) across the points.

#1: Celebrate His Mercies as by them we are not Consumed – Sin no more

Ps Jason began by speaking of how the Lord’s mercies are the very virtue by which we are not immediately annihilated and wiped out from the face of the earth. After all, if the weight of the Law was to be applied to us, even the slightest bit of sinful thought or action would bring about judgment and the sentence of death or harsh punishment pronounced. However, the Lord is merciful and gracious (Psalm 103:8). Not only does He not deal with us according to our sins, he does **not** repay us according to our iniquities (Psalm 103:10). In other words, even in our fallen twisted nature as mankind, the Lord is merciful and chooses not to judge us on that basis.

We see evidence of this in the Lord’s command for the Ark of the Covenant. The mercy seat (the seraphim facing one another) are placed on top of the Testimony (the Law). This affirms the point that indeed the Lord places Mercy above the Law. This is great cause for celebration!

What form of celebration would be most fitting in light of how His Mercies have saved us from damnation? Jesus tells us in absolutely clear terms: **Sin no more**. Multiple times in which Jesus heals, saves, resurrects... His command is to “sin no more” (John 5:14, John 8:11).

We see that **His Mercy is not without expectation**, this expectation being our repentance and life change for the Lord. The intricacy and beauty of this aspect of our relationship with the Lord is seen in Romans 12:1. It is “by the mercies of God” that we are **called to and able to** present our bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord. In other words, the mercies of the Lord **enable** us to this holy and living response.

Ps Jason then spoke of how **an attitude of gratitude** is the wellspring from which our pursuit of intimacy with the Lord springs forth. Our gratitude is not to be something contrived, but rather a natural response in light of the **depth and cost of His** redemption of our lives. When we think of the cross for example, often times we may possess the knowledge and even revelation of the meaning of Jesus’ sacrifice for our souls. But do we stop short there - does our familiarity with the Cross stop us at knowing Jesus’ sacrifice, but not Jesus Himself? Ultimately our realization of the Cross must lead us to



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the One on it. Intimacy and gratitude to the Lord is what we are being called to.

#2: Celebrate His Mercies as by them we find Hope

There are many sources of hope in our life. What distinguishes the Lord's Mercies is their **everlasting nature**. Psalm 103:17 speaks of how the mercy of the Lord is from "everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him". Here we see again an **expectation – to fear the Lord**. It might sound incompatible; fear and hope. However, our fear of the Lord is an acknowledgement of his sovereignty and His promises. In fearing the Lord we acknowledge that He has the very real power to both give greatly (Hebrews 11:13) or take when our hearts are not in the right posture towards Him (see Korah, Numbers 16:32).

#3: Celebrate His Compassion as God is Moved by It

Looking at Jesus' time on earth, we see that He had such a **great heart for the people**. Even though the Lord God is mighty and holy, His great compassion for us is seen clearly in the lives Jesus touched. The times in which Jesus fed, healed, resurrected, and wept with mankind are numerous (Mark 6:34, Matthew 20:34, Luke 17:12-15, John 11:35). Ps Jason pointed out the last (Jesus' weeping) as particular. In John 11:35, Jesus is comforting Mary and Martha over the death of Lazarus – yet Jesus already knows that He will resurrect Lazarus in but a moment.

Why then does Jesus weep? The answer is simple yet powerful: **Jesus wept, because they wept**. So we know that when we weep, Jesus weeps with us. In this we see His great compassion. Even in the light of His glory and power, He cares for our emotions, our joys and our pains. The story of the prodigal son is yet another example of the great compassion of the Lord. Despite the fallen state of the son, the Father **continues to wait and watch for him to return**. Even when we are a "long way off" (Luke 15:20) the Lord has compassion for us and runs to us to welcome us back. We need only take that step to return. Such compassion is cause for celebration indeed!

#4: Celebrate God for He is Great and Good

The very nature of God in His Greatness and Goodness is cause enough for celebration. Psalms 103:2-5 speak of the many ways in which His Greatness and Goodness manifest themselves: healing, forgiveness, redemption, etc. How then should we respond? The later portions of Psalms 103 speak of how the angels "do his Word, heeding the voice of His word... bless the Lord... you who do His pleasure". We can take these actions of the angels to be models for our own action – **to bless the Lord** with our heart and soul and action.

Conclusion



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Psalms 103 speaks of the great Mercy, Compassion, and Goodness & Greatness of the Lord. It is a Psalm of celebration, a song of blessing, a song of praise. In considering the great depth of all the above which we receive from the Lord, let us be moved to gratitude and life change in Christ.

Questions

1. What are some of the causes for celebration regarding the Lord's Mercies & Compassion?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2. What are some expectations of us in light of the Mercy and Compassion we receive from Christ? How can we grow in such a way that these expectations become our lifestyle?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3. What is one specific act that you can do to express or grow your Gratitude to the Lord for His Mercies and Compassions?

(Fill In Answer Here)
