

Does God's mercy mean we can do as we please?

The Bible refers often to God's mercy. What is mercy? Does it mean He lets people do anything they want and never punishes them?

Often mercy is thought of as withholding punishment from someone who has done wrong, but mercy can be shown to people who haven't done wrong. And sometimes withholding punishment is not merciful.

Psalm 145:8, 9 says, "God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and great in loving kindness. God is good to all, and his mercies are over all his works."

How is He merciful? Psalm 103:14 says, "For he himself well knows the formation of us, remembering that we are dust."

Romans 5:8 says, "But God recommends his own love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ



sharon corcoran

• use it or lose it

died for us."

God knows our limitations and doesn't expect more of us than we can do. He also sent his son to die for us, so we can have a better future. That sacrifice allows us to have a clean standing before God, forgiveness of sins and the opportunity for everlasting life.

How else does God show mercy? Jesus said at Matthew 5:44, 45, "However, I say to you: Continue to love your enemies and pray for those persecuting you; that you may prove yourselves sons of your Fa-

ther who is in the heavens, since he makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous."

A certain measure of good is provided regardless of whether a person is good or bad, and when there is a lack of something good, such as rain, it isn't a punishment from God.

Does this mean God never punishes people, no matter what they do? We know from examples in the Bible that is not the case. We know He punished the people living in Sodom and Gomorrah, and several nations, including his own people when they put faith in men and idols, rather than in God.

Isaiah 30:1, 2 says, "Woe to the

stubborn sons, is the utterance of God, those disposed to carry out counsel but not that from me; and to pour out a libation, but not with my spirit, in order to add sin to sin; those who are setting out to go down to Egypt and who have not inquired of my own mouth, to take shelter in the stronghold of Pharaoh and to take refuge in the shadow of Egypt!"

Before punishing those who had done wrong, God sent prophets to warn them, including Isaiah.

Jeremiah was another. One of God's warnings is recorded at Jeremiah 7:25b, 26: "I kept sending to you all my servants the prophets, daily getting up early and sending them. But they did not listen to me, and they did not incline their ear, but they kept hardening their neck. They acted worse than their forefa-

thers!"

What does this mean for us? In Matthew 24, Jesus' disciples asked for the sign of his presence and of the "conclusion of the system of things."

In verses 7, 8, he said, "For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be food shortages in one place after another. All these things are a beginning of pangs of distress."

Jesus described conditions getting worse and then said in verses 13, 14: "But he that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come."

God's warnings about the end, a destruction, are good news. Why? Because of what follows — the

righteous who endure will be saved.

2 Peter 3:12, 13 says, "awaiting and keeping close in mind the presence of the day of God, through which the heavens being on fire will be dissolved and the elements being intensely hot will melt! But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell."

God has had many details of this destruction recorded in the Bible and has said the good news of what follows will be preached. This is one way he shows mercy, not by failing to punish the wicked, but by telling us what we need to do to be among those who will be saved. Are you listening?

Pioneer couple celebrated 50th wedding anniversary 75 years ago

Families that settled the western regions of Kansas over 120 years ago were the "old pioneers" by 1932. One such couple, Daniel and Minna Dillinger, homesteaded in northeast Sherman County in 1885, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary 75 years ago, according to *The Goodland News-Republic*.

Minna lived to enjoy her 100th birthday on February 1959.

Local Pioneer Couple Celebrate Fifty Years

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel W. Dillinger of Goodland celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home Sunday. Their wedding occurred Dec. 13, 1881, at Inland, Neb. Mrs. Dillinger was formerly Miss Minna J. Fixsen.

Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Dillinger secured a homestead here in 1885. In February 1886, they came here to make their home. Five children were born to them, four of whom are living and



marcia smith

• from the vault

were present Sunday to help their parents celebrate their anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Dillinger now have 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. All of the grandchildren were present but one. Mrs. Dillinger's brother, F.H. Fixsen, was present at the anniversary celebration, he being the only one there who attended the wedding 50 years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Dillinger extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to their relatives and friends for the gathering Sunday evening and also for the party attended by more than 40 guests given in their honor

at the Christian Church Monday evening.

Among those present at the Dillinger home Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. T. Clyde Dillinger

and family, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar M. Eicher and family of Brewster, Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Raines and family of Brewster, Ray E. Dillinger of Lincoln, Nebr., Mr. and Mrs. Roy LeMarr and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Snow and family, Mr. and Mrs. Hack Berry and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Craft and family of Edson, Mr. and Mrs. George Raines, Rev. and Mrs. L.S. Dudley and Dr. and Mrs. Diller and family of St. Francis.

Family articles published in the Sherman County and Family History Vol. I revealed more about the

Dillinger family as homesteaders and long-time residents of the county.

One daughter, Eva Raines, wrote, "Daniel and two brothers-in-law, Freddie Holmes and Erwin Fixsen, came in 1885 and homesteaded Daniel's quarter section north of Edson. They built a two-room sod house and some outbuildings."

In the spring of 1886, Daniel moved his young family from Inland, Neb., to their new home in Kansas.

According to granddaughter Elva Dillinger Craft, "The family loaded two train cars with all of their belongings, scooping 100 bushels of oats around the furniture. Daniel said that when they got moved onto the homestead, he had a wife, two

babies, two cows, a sow, a good team of horses and 25 cents in his pocket."

Before wells could be dug, "snow water was hauled from lagoons and boiled for household use. Twice a week after plowing all day, Daniel would walk four miles north to a blacksmith shop, leave his dull plowshare and take a sharpened one home."

The family included sons Troy Clyde, George Blair and Ray E., and daughters Nancy Holmes and Eva N. The children walked to Muldrow school.

In 1892, the family built a 3-room frame home to take the place of the soddy and meet the needs of their growing family. Daniel was a county commissioner of the first

district from 1898 to 1901 and a charter member of the Pleasant Home church.

"In December 1901, their 16-year-old son George was killed instantly when kicked by a startled colt, which was frightened by a chicken George was trying to catch."

"When Dan and Minna moved to Goodland, they bought a home at 304 E. 11th St. On Dec. 11, 1936, Daniel died one month from his 80th birthday."

Minna continued to live in their home, and at 98 years in 1957, she moved to the Gladys Peter's Rest Home. On Feb. 26, 1959, she celebrated her 100th birthday.

"With still good hearing and a sound mind, Minna passed away April 27, 1959."

Budget can be powerful tool

Do you have a budget? Setting up a budget is the first step to controlling your money. Used correctly, it is a powerful tool.

A budget allows you to predict cash highs and lows and plan to use your money in the most effective way.

Budgeting is about planning, and planning is crucial for reaching your goals.



jamie morphew

• business tips

ing. We offer free and confidential business consulting in Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita Counties. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphey at (620) 874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org. Sponsored in part by Sherman County

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting.

accidents matters of record

Accidents

The following accidents were investigated by the Goodland Police Department.

Jan. 11 — 4:46 p.m., 800 Center, a 1994 Mercury driven by Jill H. Corcoran was attempting to cross the lane of traffic and hit a 1999 Toyota driven by Tiffany R. Batchellor. Both cars were moved

before the police officer arrived.

Jan. 12 — 12:39 p.m., 1200 Caldwell, a 1995 Jeep driven by Joanna C. Busby was driving east on 12th and hit a patch of ice sliding into a 1992 Chevrolet owned by Jason Robert Holub parked in front of 315 E. 12th.

Jan. 13 — 2:06 p.m., 1300 Caldwell, a 2002 Ford driven by

Lea Ellen Shores was driving east and attempted to slow to pass a parked 1996 Plymouth owned by Shari K. Flores, but slid on the ice and hit the rear of the Plymouth.

1:37 p.m., 1500 Center, a 1999 Pontiac driven by Vicki L. Freeman was driving north on Center and lost control hitting a parked 1996 Dodge owned by Johnny Lauber.

Jan. 14 — 2:33 p.m., 1400 Cherry, a 2005 Chevrolet driven by Connie Johnson was trying to pass a 1992 Ford driven by Sonya Attebury. Johnson hit a patch of ice, hitting Attebury. Johnson's car was moved before the police officer arrived.

public notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of MAMIE E. ROONEY, Deceased
Case No. 07-P-

NOTICE OF HEARING

The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that the petition has been filed in this court by W. T. Rooney III, one of the heirs of Mamie E. Rooney, deceased, praying for the determination of the decedent of the following described real estate:

An undivided One Half (1/2) interest in the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section Twenty-seven (27), Township Nine (9) South, Range Thirty-seven (37) West of the 6th P.M., Sherman County, Kansas;

and all other property, real and personal, or any interest therein, owned by the decedent at the time of her death; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before March 7, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. (M.S.T.) of said day, in said court, in the City of Goodland, Sherman County, Kansas, at

which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

W. T. Rooney III, Petitioner

Submitted by:
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CALIHAN, BROWN,
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