

Goodness of God

Roxborough Bible Chapel

July 29, 2018

Example of God's Goodness - Matthew 20:1-16 – Good vs Evil

- **Mat 20:1** "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.
- Mat 20:2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.
- Mat 20:3 And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,
- Mat 20:4 and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went.
- Mat 20:5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise.
- Mat 20:6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'
- Mat 20:7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'
- Mat 20:8 "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them *their* wages, beginning with the last to the first.'
- Mat 20:9 And when those came who *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.
- Mat 20:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius.
- Mat 20:11 And when they had received *it*, they complained against the landowner,
- Mat 20:12 saying, 'These last *men* have worked *only* one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'
- Mat 20:13 But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?'
- Mat 20:14 Take *what is yours* and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you.
- Mat 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?
- Mat 20:16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

Outline

- An example from Scripture - Matthew 20:1-16
- General - Why study the characteristics of God
 - Goodness is just one of these characteristics
- Goodness – Dictionary Definition
- Introduction
- God's Goodness – Scriptural Viewpoint
- How God reveals His goodness to us
 - Natural Blessings
 - His kindness shown through interventions
 - Jesus Christ
- How should we respond to God's goodness
 - Repent of ingratitude
 - Rest in His goodness when trials come
 - Step out in faith

General - Characteristics of God

What are some Characteristics (Attributes) of God?

Eternal	Loving
Omniscient	Gracious
Omnipotent	Merciful
Omnipresent	Faithful
Infinite	Immutable
Wise	Trinity
Sovereign	Just
Holy	Good

General - Characteristics of God

- Why is it important to study the characteristics of God?
 - To know God better
 - For the unsaved, knowing God = Salvation (John 17:3)
 - 1 John 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
 - As believers, we should want to know the God we love and serve
 - To Glorify God
 - Praise and worship Him as we realize who He is
 - God wants us to know Him better (intimacy with God)
- Knowing Him fully is impossible
 - Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!
 - Knowing God better helps us to live appropriately (pleasing God) since He wants us to be like Him – Therefore this can also be practical teaching!

Goodness - Definition

- Merriam-Webster
 - Of a favorable character or tendency
 - Bountiful, fertile
- Synonyms
 - Acceptable, adequate, all right, decent, passable, respectable, satisfactory, tolerable
- Antonyms
 - Deficient, inadequate, insufficient, lacking, unacceptable, unsatisfactory, wanting

Introduction

- Who is God?
 - I Chronicles 16:34 (and Psalm 118:1) Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy *endures* forever.
 - Psalm 34:8 **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;** Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!
 - Psalm 100:4-5 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name. **For the LORD is good;** His mercy *is* everlasting, *And* His truth *endures* to all generations.
- Moses saw God for who He is. (God showed him His goodness.)
 - Exodus 33:18 And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."
 - Exodus 33:19 Then He said, "I will make all My **goodness** pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

God's Goodness Defined

- The Bible defines God's goodness in two ways. (Psalm 119:68 *You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes.*)
 - His Character
 - His Actions

How God Reveals His Goodness – Natural Blessings

- Psalm 145

- **Psa 145:1 A Praise of David.** I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
- Psa 145:2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
- Psa 145:3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.
- Psa 145:4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.
- Psa 145:5 I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.
- Psa 145:6 *Men* shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness.
- Psa 145:7 They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness.
- Psa 145:8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.
- Psa 145:9 The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.
 - ALL includes you and me. That means there's nowhere in the universe you can go where God won't be good to you.
- Psa 145:10 All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You.
- Psa 145:11 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power,
- Psa 145:12 To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.
- Psa 145:13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.
- Psa 145:14 The LORD upholds all who fall, And raises up all *who are* bowed down.
- Psa 145:15 The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season.
- Psa 145:16 You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- Psa 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.
 - Every relationship, every job, every tree, every taste of food that pleases us, every birdsong, every friend and flower and field are a reminder of His compassion for us. Look in every corner of this world and every part of your day and you will find the overflow of His generosity, if you will only begin to look for it.
- Psa 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.
- Psa 145:19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.
- Psa 145:20 The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.
- Psa 145:21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.

How God Reveals His Goodness – Natural Blessings

- God gives us creation to enjoy. Everything He made was good.
 - Gen 1:4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness.
 - Gen 1:10 And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was* good.
 - Gen 1:12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.
 - Gen 1:18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was* good.
 - Gen 1:21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.
 - Gen 1:25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.
 - Gen 1:31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
 - Gen 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

How God Reveals His Goodness – Kind Interventions

- Psalm 107 is totally devoted to this theme, and opens with joy.
 - Psalm 107:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.
 - Psalm 107:2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,
- The following phrase is repeated (verses 8, 15, 21, 31) as a chorus throughout the psalm, “Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His goodness, And *for* His wonderful works to the children of men!”
- Then the psalmist describes four different scenarios where God graciously steps in to reveal His goodness.
 - God comes to the rescue of people who are frantically searching for something or someone that will satisfy their soul.
 - God intervenes in the lives of those who have rebelled against the Word of God and suffer for it.
 - God intervenes on behalf of His goodness in the lives of foolish people who had given themselves to sin and reverses the killing effects of sin in their lives.
 - God rescues those ravished by storms (trials) in their lives.
- He's been there for you, more than you'll ever know. He is good all the time!

How God Reveals His Goodness Through God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

- Colossians 1 reminds us that Jesus "is the image of the invisible God" (v. 15) and that "God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him" (v. 19). Jesus is God's goodness in the flesh. He demonstrated God's desire to pour out blessing and help and deliverance on us in three ways.
- 1. He took the judgment that our sins deserved upon Himself
 - Romans 5:8 says, "God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us!"
- 2. He includes many other things in the gift of Himself
 - Romans 8:32 says this of God: "He did not even spare His own Son, but offered Him up for us all; how will He not also with Him grant us everything?"
- 3. Jesus unlocks God's goodness toward us in new ways
 - II Cor. 1:20 tells us that "every one of God's promises is 'Yes' in [Christ]."
- If I want to understand and appreciate God's goodness to me, I can begin and end with Jesus.

How Should We Respond to God's Goodness?

- *Repent of ingratitude*
 - Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?
- *Rest in His goodness when trials come*
 - Psalm 31:19 Oh, how great *is* Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, *Which* You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men!
 - Psalm 31:20 You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion From the strife of tongues.
- *Step out in faith*
 - Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
 - Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.