

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church
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Moments from the Mount
01/14/2021

TOPIC: “How to Understand God Better in 2021”
SUBTOPIC: “God’s Justice. God’s Grace/Mercy”

LESSON # 2

Notice the topic that we began on last Thursday evening entitled, **How to Understand God Better in 2021**. And our subtopic: **God’s Justice. God’s Grace/Mercy**.

Notice that the set of scales. They have “two” separate sides. And notice that these two sides are not “balanced”. This is representative of the fact, that sometimes we don’t understand **God’s ways**; and the *reasons why* He *does certain* things, or why He *allows other* things.

For instance: Why He let Satan do what he does? Or other people do what they do? And this sometimes include people in “high office”.

Have you ever had to ask, “God why did you let certain things happen? My relationship, my family, during my childhood, my mother, my child, my health, my grandbaby, on my job, my finances, my automobile, etc.

Sometimes what we expect and hope might or will happen, the very “opposite” takes place. And that leaves us trying to understand God.

But, when you understand God better, the scales will balance!!! When the scales balance, that is called: **FAITH**.

And so that’s what we want to do coming out of 2020, and going into 2021, we want to “**understand God better**”.

One of the *first* things in 2021 that we will look at, and try to better understand is, “**why did Adam sin, but,... we got punished?** Because that doesn’t seem equal.

God gave Adam a choice! And he chose to sin. And **became** a sinner!!! But I wasn’t given that same choice. I was simply **declared** a sinner!!! Maybe if God had given me a choice, I would have chosen not to eat the fruit! You never really know! But what I do know is that I didn’t get a choice. And because “he” sinned, now I’m a sinner!!!

Now, in order to understand “why” **you** didn’t get a choice, you must understand “why” **Jesus wasn’t given a choice. Jesus had to die!!!** He really had no other choice, “if” He was going to do God’s will.

It all has to do with, and goes back to, God’s justice and grace (mercy). When you understand God’s justice, and His grace (His love, His mercy), the scales always balance!!!

Let’s look at the two main reason why Jesus died:

1). Because of God’s Justice

a). Romans 3:25 (AMP)- whom God displayed publicly [before the eyes of the world] as a [life-giving] ^{is} **sacrifice** of atonement *and* reconciliation (propitiation) by His blood [to be received] through faith. **This was to demonstrate His righteousness** [which demands punishment for sin], because in His forbearance [His deliberate restraint] He passed over the sins previously committed [before Jesus’ crucifixion].

2). Because of God’s mercy (love)-

a). Romans 5:8 (AMP)- But God clearly *shows and proves* His own **love** for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ **died** for us.

Okay, to understand God better in 2021, you will need to be aware of, and have a good understanding of, “**when**”, God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, decided to **come up with a plan** to save man?

You might ask, “well why is that important to understand? **Because around that same time, they made some decisions about you!**

But, first, let me tell you some specifics about their plan. **The divided the plan into “three” parts:**

1). God the Father would “**come up**” with the plan. The Trinity discussed it; but scripture indicates that God the Father came up with the plan.

a). Luke 22:42 (KJV)- Saying, Father, if **thou be willing**, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not **my** will, but **thine**, be done.

b). Ephesians 3:10-11 (AMP)- ¹⁰ So now through the church the multifaceted **wisdom** of **God** [in all its countless aspects] might now be made known [revealing the mystery] to the [angelic] rulers and authorities in the heavenly *places*. ¹¹ *This is* in accordance with [the terms of] the eternal purpose which **He** carried out **in** Christ Jesus our Lord,

2). God the Son agreed to “**carry out**” the plan. He would be the one to execute the plan.

3). God the Holy Spirit, once the plan was executed, He would “**create within**”, each individual, the plan. He would **apply** the plan to your individual heart. He would inspire, draw, and motivate you to accept and believe the plan.

Question: When did *The Father* come up with “**this**” plan? And, when did He come up with “**your**” plan?

It happened before He created the world (Genesis 1-2:1-2). In fact, creating the world, was “part” of the plan.

To understand God better, you will need to know; *how long-ago*, God “**came up**” with, and thought about, **the** plan. And *how long-ago*, He “**came up**” with, and thought about **you** and **your** plan.

1). Ephesians 1:4- According as he hath *chosen* us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

2). II Timothy 1:9- Who hath *saved* us, and *called* us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus **before the world began,**

3). Revelation 13:8- And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb *slain* **from the foundation of the world.**

Now, around the same time, and in the same way, **your** life was planned out long ago:

1). Jeremiah 1:5- Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and **before** thou camest forth out of the womb I *sanctified* thee, and I *ordained* thee a **prophet** unto the nations.

God's personal plan for me: I was a *preacher* before I *preached* my **first** sermon!

KEY POINT: Your life, purpose, and destiny,..... was planned long before you were born. And, **no one can stop God's plan for your life!!!**

***** Now, say for instance, that your boss, coworker, ex-spouse, sister, church member, or some bossy/take-over spirit Deacon, tries to stop that plan:

1) Daniel 4:35 (AMP)- "All the *inhabitants* of the earth are regarded as *nothing*.

But **He** does according to **His** will in the host of *heaven*

And among the inhabitants of the *earth*;

And **no one** can hold back His hand

Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'

2) Isaiah 46:10-11b (AMP)- ¹⁰

Declaring the *end* and the *result* from the *beginning*,

And from **ancient times** the things which *have not [yet] been done*,

Saying, 'My purpose will be *established*,

And I will do *all* that pleases Me *and fulfills* My *purpose*,'

¹¹ Truly I have spoken; truly I will *bring it to pass*.

I have **planned** it, *be assured* I will **do** it.

3) Psalm 33:10-11 (AMP)- ¹⁰

The LORD **nullifies** the counsel of the nations;

He makes the *thoughts and plans* of the people **ineffective**.

¹¹ The counsel of the LORD stands forever,

The thoughts *and* plans of His heart through all generations.

You might say, “Well, why has my life been so rough? Why is it so hard? It surely doesn’t look like a good plan to me!

A. The “All-Things” Anthem (You must know about, learn, and sing, the “**All-Things” Anthem**).

1). Romans 8:28- And we know that **all things** *work* together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2). Ephesians 1:11- In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who *worketh* **all things** after the counsel of his own will:

3). Romans 11:36- For of him, and through him, and to him, are **all things**: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.