**(Psalm 103) John 10**

THE GOOD LIFE

**7––GOD & HIS WAYS**

**John 10:10 (NKJV)** “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

**THERE IS A REAL DEVIL … AND THERE ARE REAL DEMONS. JESUS IS CLEARLY TELLING US THAT THEY ARE OUT TO DESTROY.**

**1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)** Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

**BUT JESUS ALSO TELLS US THAT THIS IS THE REASON HE CAME … TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL**

**1 John 3:8 (GW)** “… The reason that the Son of God appeared was to destroy what the devil does.”

**JESUS SAID, “I CAME THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE, AND THAT YOU MAY HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.”**

**Psalm 103:1–8 (NKJV)** Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! **2** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: **3** Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, **4** Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, **5** Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. **6** The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. **7** **He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.**

1. Forgives all your iniquities
2. Heals all your diseases
3. Redeems your life from destruction
4. Crowns you with lovingkindness (hesed) and tender mercies
5. Satisfies your mouth with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s
6. Executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed
7. Makes known His ways and acts
8. Merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in mercy (hesed)

**TODAY… Verses 7-8** He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. **8** The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

**Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)** And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

**Numbers 12:6–8 (NIV)** he said, “Listen to my words: “When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. **7** But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. **8** With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”

**GOD’S WAYS ARE LEARNED THROUGH REVELATION … HIS ACTS ARE KNOWN BY OBSERVATION**

**Romans 11:33 (NKJV)** 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!

**Psalm 103:8 (NKJV)** The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

**I REWROTE VERSE 8 TO HELP US UNDERSTAND WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT SAID:**

*“The Lord is very understanding, empathetic and compassionate. He is merciful, kind and gracious, and He has an overwhelming supply of hesed; unfailing love and covenant loyalty.”*

**EX – Laying on the floor of a hotel room in Colorado … I knew something was not right … I was missing something … God was so gracious with me … forgave me … put me back on the right track … Brought unity to leaders and churches across the country.**

**EX – God led a minister to go out on the road to preach and teach … but he didn’t want to do that … it was hard … there was no consistency in pay … you never knew if or where you may be invited … he didn’t like calling pastors to offer to come. Someone invited him to be the pastor of a church in the South … he prayed about it, but didn’t have the sense that the Lord was leading him there. BUT … he wanted to go there, so he went. And he worked hard and preached his heart out, and he struggled. So he worked harder and preached even better, and he struggled more. And finally, after a couple of years he repented before the Lord … he let the people know that he was out of the will of God and resigned. And God forgave him … restored him in ministry … and today, that man leads a ministry of many thousands of people … he’s known around the world as one of the best teachers of the word … and he is highly esteemed.**

**EX – Ever since my dad got saved he wanted to preach the word to others. In fact, early in their marriage my dad felt that he should accept the invitation to be a pastor at a very, very small church in New Mexico. My mom has always had a heart for God, and she certainly didn’t want to hold him back, so she forfeited a promotion at her job and went with my dad to New Mexico. From the moment they got there, something didn’t feel right. Things were different than what they had been told, and there was a lack of peace from the Lord. My dad told my mom, “I’m going to lock myself in this little room to fast and pray and seek the Lord. Unless I ask, don’t disturb me. Don’t bring me any food. I need to hear from God. About three days later he emerged and humbly said, “We’re out of the will of God.” Still having a heart for the ministry, they went back to California and he landed a job with McDonnell Douglas where he worked about 30 years. He and my mom raised three sons … and all of them pastor fruitful churches today.**

**THE LORD IS MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS, SLOW TO ANGER, AND ABOUNDING IN MERCY.**