

Outline #4 Mercy and Justice in the Psalms
and Proverbs

May the Lord Direct (2 Thess. 3:5, 16)

1. The Psalms—songs of hope for the oppressed

- a) Psalm 9:9—Is the Psalmist David referring to himself here or thinking of others?
- b) Psalm 9:13–20
- c) Psalm 50:15—the invitation of the LORD
- d) Share a time when you felt the need for deliverance from those who were oppressing you.
- e) What encouragement would you offer to someone who is oppressed and still waiting for deliverance?

2. Crying out to God for forgiveness

- a) Psalm 51:1–4, 7–12 What is the context of this earnest prayer of the Psalmist David?
- b) Share a time when this prayer of David became your prayer.
- c) What promises in the Scriptures give us assurance of mercy and forgiveness when we cry out to God?
- d) What encouragement would you give to someone who said, “It’s too late for me! I’ve gone too far”?

3. Recounting the mercy and faithfulness of God

- a) Psalm 101:1
- b) Psalm 92:1–2
- c) Psalm 117
- d) Why is it important to remember and recount the mercy and faithfulness of God?

- e) How has the Lord demonstrated His mercy and faithfulness in your life?

4. Taking time to praise the Lord

- a) The Psalms are filled with admonitions to praise the LORD (e.g. Psalm 9:1–2)
- b) Share some other appeals from the Psalmists to praise the LORD (see Psalms 146–150)
- c) What are some reasons the Psalmist gives for praising the LORD? Psalm 146:7–9
- d) What are some reasons you have for praising the LORD today?
- e) Why is it so easy to forget to praise the LORD for His mercy and unfailing love?

5. Appeals for mercy and justice from the Proverbs

- a) Proverbs 14:31
- b) Why does God care about justice? Psalm 89:14
- c) What teaching of Jesus reinforces the importance of showing mercy to those in need and seeking justice for the oppressed?
- d) Where do we see mercy revealed in the ministry of Jesus?
- e) What opportunities has God given you to show mercy to the needy?
- f) When is it appropriate for Christians to become involved in seeking justice for the oppressed?

