Three Divine Acts of Mercy

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I. Introduction
   a. In our time of study we will be seeking to recognize and honor the infinite mercy of our God
   b. We will examine three historical events recorded in Scripture that demonstrate his Divine mercy

II. KEY THOUGHT – We serve a merciful God, and He has proven His mercy to us over and over again throughout history.

III. David and Jerusalem – 2 Sam. 24
   a. David makes a fatal mistake – v. 2-4,8-9
      i. He wanted to know how many soldiers he had
      ii. Ex. 30:12 required a ransom of a half shekel to be paid by each one numbered to prevent the outbreak of plague
      iii. The ransom apparently was intended to
         1. Make a census costly and therefore less likely
         2. To remind the nation of their dependence on God at a time where national pride and self-reliance may be involved
      iv. Clearly David was acting in pride
      v. He knew what He did was wrong as soon as he had done it
   b. Innocent people are about to die b/c of David's sin – v. 10-15
      i. Given the choice of three punishments
      ii. Chooses three days of plague
      iii. God's mercies are great
      iv. Innocent people are about to die
      v. God has every right to execute his judgment
      vi. But…
   c. God shows mercy – v. 16-19, 24-25
      i. It is enough, Restrain your hand
         1. The angel stops destroying
      ii. Command David to make a sacrifice
         1. On a particular spot of ground outside Jerusalem
         2. David buys it
         3. And makes sacrifices there
      iii. Accepts David's prayers
      iv. Ends the plague

IV. Abraham and Isaac – Gen. 22
   a. God tests Abraham –
      i. Abraham has sinned (v. 1-2)
         1. There were many sacrifices offered by the Israelites that were not for forgiveness of sins
            a. Thank offering
            b. Grain offering

            c. Free will offering
        2. These sacrifices involved
            a. Oil
            b. Grain
            c. Agricultural crops
            d. Money
        3. But animal sacrifices were almost always connected with atonement for sin
            a. I have sinned
            b. I deserve death
            c. Please accept the life of my animal in place of my life
        4. That is the background in which Abraham was asked to offer his son
            a. Had he sinned? Yes
            b. Did God have the right to require the life of his son? Yes
        5. So the only question was, will Abraham obey?
    b. Abraham passes the test – Isaac is about to die b/c of Abraham's sin (v. 3-10)
        i. An innocent life is about to be sacrificed
        ii. God has a right to demand this life
        iii. But…
    c. God shows mercy – v. 11-18
        i. "Do not lay your hand on the lad"
        ii. Accepts an animal sacrifice instead
        iii. Blesses Abraham's confirmed faith

V. Jesus and the World – Matt. 27:33-51
    a. The world has sinned
    b. Jesus is about to die b/c of the sins of the world – Rom. 5:6-8
    c. God did not show mercy to Jesus, but did show mercy to the world
        i. Would God say
            1. Enough! Restrain your hand
            2. Do not lay your hand on Him
            3. Would he send 12 legions of angels to mercy to this innocent one suffering at the hands of the wicked
        ii. Rom. 8:32 – Did not spare his own son
        iii. Others he saved, himself he cannot save – Mt. 27:42
        iv. Isa. 53:4-6, 10-12

VI. Conclusion
    a. God so loved the world…
    b. The geographic connection –Moriah
        i. Moriah –Keil & Delizsch – Manifestation of Jehovah
        ii. Abraham – the land of Moriah
            1. He manifested himself there in mercy
        iii. David – 2 Chr. 3:1 – Temple built at Mt. Moriah

            1. He manifested himself there in mercy
        iv. Jesus – outside the city of Jerusalem
            1. Likely w/in sight of the temple mount, Mt Moriah, Mt. Zion
            2. He manifested himself there in mercy again
c. We serve a God of great mercy
    i. David said His mercies are great – 2 Sam. 24:14
    ii. Ps. 136 – refer – every verse ends with the phrase "for His mercy endures forever"
    iii. Ps. 103 – read if time permits
    iv. Mic. 7:18-20
    v. Eph. 2:1-10 – read if time permits
d. We must seek and obtain His mercy
    i. There may be 1000 things that God has NOT done for you, that you wish He would
    ii. But considering this just one thing that He HAS DONE for you
        1. Is there any reason to doubt His mercy
        2. Is there any reason not to seek His mercy
        3. Is there any reason not to do anything necessary to obtain His mercy
        4. Is there any reason to praise and rejoice in His mercy
    iii. Rom. 8:32
e. We must be a people of mercy
    i. Matt. 5:7 – Blessed are the merciful
    ii. James 2:12-13
f. INVITATION
    i. Who doesn't want mercy?
        1. God has an interest in giving mercy
        2. We have an interest in receiving mercy
        3. Only Satan doesn't like mercy
            a. He has two main tools for preventing us from receiving mercy
                i. You're not bad enough to need mercy
                ii. You're too bad to receive mercy
            b. Often he uses both tools on the same person at different times
            c. He is a miserable liar!
        4. Don't let Satan keep you from the mercy you need and the mercy God desires to give you
    ii. The gospel conditions for mercy – Acts 2:38