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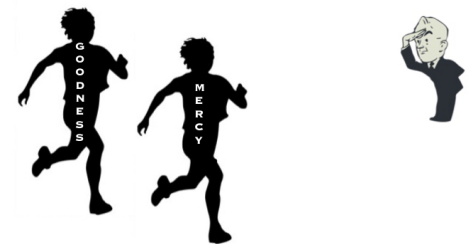


For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.
Psalm 100:5 (NKJV)

Thought for today...

“Excuse me, excuse me!” Perhaps you have heard someone behind you utter those words, but assuming they are not addressing you, you continue walking until you feel a tap on your shoulder. Turning to see who has had the nerve to pursue you and invade your personal space (presumably for a nefarious purpose), you feel somewhat foolish when an item is handed to you accompanied by the words “I think this belongs to you?” Maybe without noticing, you had dropped a glove, money or something else, and are therefore grateful that you have been spared the subsequent discovery of its loss.

Perhaps in the past you have been the one in pursuit, catching up to someone to announce with delight that you have retrieved and are returning their possession, only to be met with a gruff response rather than the gratitude that you were expecting!



In what is probably one of the most recognised Psalms, David paints a picture of God’s loving pursuit: **“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.”** Psalm 23:6 (New King James Version).

Like King David, we as followers of Christ are able to make the same declaration, namely, that goodness and mercy will follow us. Remember that unexpected monetary gift that came just in time to pay that bill? God's goodness and mercy. Perhaps it was a job that you needed and God provided it? God's goodness and mercy. That accident you were in that everyone said should have been fatal, but you escaped with only a few scrapes and bruises? God's goodness and mercy.

When we recall the many instances in which God's goodness and mercy has pursued us and tapped us on the shoulder, have we turned to receive His provision with thankfulness, or a gruff response instead?

Despite the latter, King David reminds us that it is God: **Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies** (Psalm 103:4 NKJV) and further, that: **The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;** (Psalm 103:8 & 10-11 NKJV).



David continues in his encouragement:

“O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever.”
Psalm 107:1 (King James Bible).

Regardless of the circumstances that you may find yourself in at present, take a look over your shoulder; do you see them?

Goodness and mercy are following ...