

Psalms 119:124

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes.

Analysis

Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy (אֶשֶׁה עִם־עַבְדְּךָ כְּחַסְדְּךָ, aseh im-avdekha kechasdekha)—The plea shifts from the psalmist's own righteousness (v. 121) to God's chesed (covenant love, steadfast mercy). This demonstrates biblical balance: believers pursue righteousness while appealing ultimately to grace. The same pattern governs the new covenant (Eph 2:8-10).

Teach me thy statutes (חֻקֶּיךָ, chuqeikā)—Divine decrees or ordinances. True mercy includes instruction in God's ways, not indulgence in ignorance. Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness (Titus 2:11-12).

Historical Context

The covenantal term chesed pervades the Old Testament, describing God's loyal love that maintains His promises despite Israel's failures. David frequently appealed to God's chesed for forgiveness and restoration (Ps 51:1).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you balance appealing to your obedience (v. 121) with appealing to God's mercy (v. 124)?
2. Why does the psalmist link God's mercy with teaching statutes—how are grace and instruction connected?
3. In what areas of life do you need to shift from demanding justice to requesting mercy?

Interlinear Text

עִשׂ֙ה	עִם	עַבְדְּךָ	כְּחַסְדְּךָ	וְלִקְוֵיךָ
Deal	H5973	with thy servant	according unto thy mercy	me thy statutes
H6213		H5650	H2617	H2706
וְלִמְדֵנִי׃				
and teach				
H3925				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:12 (Parallel theme): Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

Psalms 130:7 (Grace): Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

Daniel 9:18 (Parallel theme): O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

Psalms 69:13 (Grace): But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

Psalms 119:132 (Grace): Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.

Psalms 119:26 (Parallel theme): I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes.

Psalms 69:16 (Parallel theme): Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.

Psalms 51:1 (Grace): Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Psalms 103:10 (Parallel theme): He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Luke 18:13 (Grace): And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.