

The nature of God:

John 13:12, "... So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "**Do you know** what I have done to you? For I have **given you an example**, that **you should do as I have done** to you. If you know these things, **blessed are you if you do them...**"

God/Jesus expected “personal responsibility”:

Matt 12:38, “... Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”

Jesus answered, “NO”

(**Matt 15:14**, they were blind...)

John 13:17, “... If you know these things, **blessed** are you **if you do them...**”

[Our reading, **Col 3:1-14**; focus' on “doing”]

Col 3:5-9, and notice what kind of people we were; selfish!

Col 3:10-12, “... and have **put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to **the image of Him who created him**... Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering...**”

(**Col 3:14**, put on love- **1John 4:7-8**)

Jesus embodied

The nature of God:

John 14:8-9, "... Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us. Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

(Ephesians 1:3), blessings ONLY in Christ)

God's tender mercies and longsuffering are also conditional:

On our part!

Matt 14:23-31, "... But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, **he was afraid**; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "**Lord, save me!**" And **immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him**, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

(2Peter 3:9, God is longsuffering!)

Luke 15:11-32, “... But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger...”

[It was only after he “repented” did his father bless!]

The father was longsuffering!

God demonstrated His “tender mercies and longsuffering”, by always being there; after mankind does his part, God was always there!

Look to the example of David; God did not build a hedge around him; but when David came to God; He was always there!

Psalms

the “tender mercies” of God:

Psalm 25:1-7, “... O my God, I trust in You;

Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me. Remember, O

LORD, Your **tender mercies** and Your lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; **According to Your mercy** remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

Psalm 40:1-8, 11-13, “... **Many, O LORD**
my God, **are Your wonderful works**
Which You have done; And Your thoughts
toward us Cannot be recounted to You in
order; If I would declare and speak of
them... Do not **withhold Your tender**
mercies from me, O LORD; Let Your
lovingkindness and Your truth continually
preserve me...”
(Psalm 51-1-4)

Psalm 51:1-4, “...¶ <<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.>> Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; **According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions...**”
(God did after David repented!)

Psalm 69:16-18, “... Hear me, O LORD,
for Your lovingkindness is good; Turn to
me according to the **multitude of Your
tender mercies**. And do not hide Your
face from Your servant, For I am in
trouble; Hear me speedily. Draw near to
my soul, and redeem it; Deliver me
because of my enemies.

(David still had enemies; no hedge)

Psalm 103:1-8, “... ¶ <<A Psalm of David.>> Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and **tender mercies**, The LORD is **merciful and gracious**, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy...”

Our responsibility; to be like HIM