

FRIDAY, MARCH 16 – SHARING THE BEST NEWS

BOTTOM LINE: Surrender leads to power.

Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. Isaiah 55:7

This is the best news our sinful, broken world could ever receive. We all are sinners, and we could be broadly divided into two groups, with extremes on both ends. There are the "bad sinners," the ones readily identified as missing the mark. Their escapades make the newspapers or the gossip circles. Mothers warn their daughters about the worst of them, and everyone knows they are the bad boys of the neighborhood. They are the loose women, the hard-talking, hard-living people whose behavior and ways identify them. They don't seem to care.

The second group is the "good sinners," whose sins are not easily discerned by those around them. They look good on the outside; their behavior is mostly above board. No wild sinning, none of the big bad sins that are obvious to those who observe their lives. Their sins are in secret—their thoughts, motives, and imaginations are the places they derail. If they are honest, they will admit that they're glad their minds are not billboards, visible to the world.

But it doesn't matter which group is ours—the promise is the same. If the wicked "bad" sinners leave their ways and turn to the Lord's forgiveness, they will find mercy and pardon, given freely. If the unrighteous "good" sinners forsake their thoughts and turn to the Lord for forgiveness, they also will find mercy and free pardon.

That is the best news in the world, and every person you know needs to hear it. How can you share that news with another sinner who needs forgiveness and mercy, just like you, today?

• Pray: Lord, Your forgiveness is priceless and yet free. Help me see the other people You love today through Your eyes of grace and mercy. Give me wisdom to share with joy and clarity my own testimony of forgiveness, and make me eager for others to experience Your free pardon as well. Amen.