

Grace, Part 2

Exciting First Church of God 11-10-13

Recap Points:

1. It is unearned love from God
(God giving to us what we don't deserve—his love, his mercy, his favor)
2. An act of kindness beyond what is due us or is usual
3. It is God's favor toward us, His full acceptance into His presence
4. We are saved (from God's wrath, judgment) by *grace* through our faith / belief in Jesus' death & resurrection
5. Have you received his grace into your life?
Are there areas that you need His grace in today?

Two stories today of Grace: OT and NT

It helps to see illustrations of Grace to understand our life of faith.

- **To see the parallels**
- **To learn the point**

King David and Saul's Grandson

- David has become King of Israel, two kingdoms have become one
- David has had a life-long battle with the former king, Saul
- Bible records how Saul constantly tried to kill David because he was jealous of him
- David was best friends with Saul's son, Jonathan
- God is going to make David king and David pledged to his friend Jonathan that he would always show kindness to Jonathan's family and ancestors

Story picks up here:

One day David asked, "Is anyone in Saul's family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"² He summoned a man named Ziba, who had been one of Saul's servants. The king then asked him, "Is anyone still alive from Saul's family? If so, I want to show God's kindness to them."

Ziba replied, “Yes, one of Jonathan’s sons is still alive. He is crippled in both feet.”

⁵ So David sent for him. ⁶ His name was Mephibosheth; he was Jonathan’s son and Saul’s grandson.”

“Don’t be afraid!” David said. “I intend to show kindness to you because of my promise to your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king’s table!”

⁸ Mephibosheth bowed respectfully and exclaimed, “Who is your servant, that you should show such kindness to a dead dog like me?”

⁹ Then the king summoned Saul’s servant Ziba and said, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. ¹⁰ You and your sons and servants are to farm the land for him to produce food for your master’s household. But Mephibosheth, your master’s grandson, will eat here at my table.” (Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

From then on, all the members of Ziba’s household were Mephibosheth’s servants. ¹³ And Mephibosheth, who was crippled in both feet, lived in Jerusalem and ate regularly at the king’s table.”

-from 2 Samuel 9:1-13, NLT

Where is the Grace?

- The king had absolute authority
- A new king in power would kill every member of the former king’s household so their wouldn’t be rebellion
- David, who had promised his friend Jonathan that he wouldn’t kill off the family line, now keeps his promise
- Another part of grace: Mephibosheth isn’t worth anything to King David: he is not a warrior, not a skilled craftsman, he will not work to produce anything for the king. He says to David,

“What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”

- And thus David extends grace (unearned by Mephibosheth, he didn't deserve it, it was the favor of David coming towards him) and his mercy
- Judgment would have been: "You are part of the family that wanted to kill me. Now you get what you deserve!"
- The picture here is that even as King David had to seek after the man to show his love, God seeks after us to show His love.

In the Bible Jesus says,

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

-Luke 19:10, ESV

-Have you been found by God? Saved by God?

-If so, are you extending the same kind of grace to the people around you?

A 2nd story of Grace: A Lady Caught Sinning (John 8)

Points from Lady and Jesus:

1. Grace is not **cheap**—"Go and sin no more."
2. We should expect it: (trust in it, hope for it, be sure of it) but not **abuse** it (sin, ask forgiveness, sin, ask forgiveness...)
3. Jesus came to **save**, not condemn.
 - In Christ / Jesus, we never find accusations again!
 - Our sin, disobedience, *has been* taken care of (on the cross)
 - Were we accused? Yes! "The wages of sin is death...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ." But in relation with Jesus, no more.
 - Our motives now (born again, saved, following Jesus) is to consider: "What will please Him?" "How will / can my life please Him?"
4. Grace demands a **response** "I don't condemn / accuse you either..." **go and sin no more."**

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should

boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
-Eph. 2:8-10, NKJV

Here is the mission of Jesus: to search for us, to save us, not to write us off!

“God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.¹⁷ God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent him to save them!”
-John 3:16-17, CEV

Grace. It is:

- free, it is
- God coming to us, it is
- Expected of all who belong to God.
- Do you?
- Have you received salvation, the grace of God into your life? Pray