

God is Gracious, So Be Gracious

Summary: Grace is one of The Lord's most prominent and highly valued characteristics. Through His grace we have been saved; and it is by God's grace that we find all that is required to live godly lives in accordance with His word and revealed will. God's grace is paramount. In short, grace is, "favor; good will; kindness... the free unmerited love and favor of God, the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from him." [Webster] There is perhaps no better place to see God's grace displayed than the life of Jesus. So therefore, let us look at a few examples in Jesus' life of His grace in action, so that we might be not only strengthened and encouraged, but also provoked to be gracious as our Lord is gracious.

I. Introduction

- a. The goal: To explore a few examples from the life of Jesus wherein Jesus displays grace. To see the grace of Jesus in action, with the goal of making us more gracious. To gaze at the glory of Jesus, His life, His character, in order that we might be...
 - i. Strengthened and empowered
 - ii. Given hope
 - iii. Given Joy
 - iv. Convicted to action and repentance
- b. 2 Corinthians 3:18 – *Being changed into His image from glory to glory*
- c. Luke 6:40 – *A complete disciple is like Jesus*

II. John 8 – The woman caught in adultery

- a. The grace of God
 - i. Not responding to/acknowledging the voice of satan which comes to resist and accuse
 - ii. Not joining in with/agreeing with accusations even if they are true
 - iii. Pardon and forgiveness despite guilt, despite the "prayers" of others asking for the contrary
- b. The Pharisees and satan – *Both accusers*
 - i. Revelation 12:10
 - 1. Isaiah 58:3-6, 9-11
 - ii. Matthew 7:3 – *C.f., Casting the first stone*
 - iii. Zechariah 3:1-5 – *Satan condemns, God/Jesus defend/forgive*
 - 1. Matthew 18:32-33
 - 2. Isaiah 61:1-2
 - a. John 3:17
- c. A stone or the plumbline – *Jesus builds us up*
 - i. Zechariah 4:6-10
 - ii. Doing things to build up, not tear down
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 12:19
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 14:12
- d. Moderation – *treating others in a reasonable, lenient, and gentle way*
 - i. Philippians 4:5
 - 1. Psalms 18:35-36
 - ii. James 2:10, 12-13
 - 1. C.f., Romans 3:23 – *We are all guilty of falling short*

III. Luke 23:34 – Father, forgive them

- a. The grace of God
 - i. Forgiving those who are harming Him
 - ii. Giving others the benefit of the doubt, despite overwhelming evidence on the contrary
 - b. Love believes all things
 - i. 1 Corinthians 13:7
 - ii. Acts 17:29-31
 - iii. The thief on the cross
 - 1. Luke 23:43
 - iv. Walking on the sea
 - 1. Matthew 14:26-27
- IV. **Matthew 9:9** – Jesus saw a man
- a. C.f., Luke 5:27 – *A tax collector*
 - b. The grace of God
 - i. Seeing someone through a positive lens
 - ii. Not seeing someone according to their sin
 - c. Romans 15:7 – *Receive others as Jesus received us*
 - i. 2 Corinthians 5:16
- V. **Luke 9:49-50** – Forbid them not
- a. The grace of God
 - i. Not being cliquey
 - ii. Not being jealous
 - iii. Not micromanaging
 - b. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 – *One Spirit, One God*
 - i. Romans 14:1-7
 - c. C.f., Mark 7:7 – *Teaching man's commands/traditions as doctrine*
- VI. **Extras, time permitting**
- a. Mark 2:5
 - b. Mark 6:34
 - c. Genesis 1:3
 - d. Luke 7:47