



THE GRACE OF GOD

Purpose:

- To grasp the power of Jesus' sacrifice and our desperate need for God's grace

WHAT IS GRACE?

Ephesians 2:1-10

- Unmerited favor: God's gift of mercy and forgiveness given to a humanity that doesn't deserve it and could never earn it by their own work or effort.
- When we live for ourselves, we are enemies of God.
- We are saved not by our own effort, but by the love and mercy of God through Jesus.

WHY DO WE NEED GRACE?

Romans 3:22-24

- All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God
- All humanity is spiritually bankrupt- totally unable to save ourselves spiritually- our sin has irrevocably separated us from God, and we have no way of earning our way back into his presence.
 - Earning our way to heaven is like trying to jump across the Grand Canyon
 - No matter how far you can jump- whether 10 feet or 30 feet...you won't get close to crossing the 47,520 feet to get from one side to the other.
 - Our efforts to 'earn' our salvation are meager at best- the cost of sin is far too high, and we cannot afford it- we don't have the right currency, we need divine help.

2 Corinthians 5:21

- God knew when he created mankind we would rebel, and he knew what it would cost him to save us.
- God is just, a price is demanded for our sin, and only Jesus could pay that price.
- Jesus lived a perfect life, and he offered that life to God in place of ours, he switched his record with ours and was punished for our sin while we enjoy the fruits of his perfect life.
- **ANALOGY: Courtroom** →

AT A GLANCE

SCRIPTURES:

- Ephesians 2:1-10
- Romans 3:22-24
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Matthew 26:36-46
- Matthew 26:47-56
- Matthew 26:57-68
- Matthew 26:69-75
- Matthew 27:26-44
- Isaiah 53:4-6
- 2 Samuel 9:1-10
- Matthew 26-28

NEXT STEPS:

- Watch the Passion of the Christ and/or read through the full account of his sacrifice in Matthew 26-28 reflect on what it cost Jesus to pay our sin debt



What do you think about this?
Is it hard for you to accept how badly you need God's grace?



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The cost of God's grace was the suffering of Jesus.

THE EMOTIONAL SUFFERING

Matthew 26:36-46

- His friends weren't there for him when he was overwhelmed with sorrow

Matthew 26:47-56

- He was betrayed by Judas and abandoned by his disciples

Matthew 26:57-68

- He was falsely accused by his enemies, mocked, spat on and beaten

Matthew 26:69-75

- Was denied by his close friend Peter

THE PHYSICAL SUFFERING

Matthew 27:26-44

- Jesus was tortured by being flogged, beaten, mocked, and crucified

THE SPIRITUAL SUFFERING

Isaiah 53:4-6

- Jesus carried the burden and punishment for our sin
- He felt the full weight of the consequences of our sin so that we didn't have to- he paid our price while we receive his reward

How do you feel about what Jesus went through for us?

A Helpful Picture of God's Grace

- 2 Samuel 9:1-10
 - Mephibosheth was worth nothing in his culture, just a destitute, crippled man of a disgraced house.
 - We are like Mephibosheth, spiritually crippled, destitute, unable to help ourselves.
 - God shows us kindness, love and grace because of Jesus- just as David showed Mephibosheth kindness, love and grace because of Jonathon.

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