

with God. That's grace.

When grace is on display, why wouldn't people want it to be true.

In the course of human history, the Good News referred to is embodied in a person, Jesus. And the Good News is summarized in a word, and it's our word; 'GRACE'.

Grace is an invitation; like the invitation Jesus extended to that woman and that

man on the cross. It's an invitation that goes like this. 'I know all about you. The good, the bad, the ugly. And I want you to follow me. But be warned, if you follow me, I will lead you away from your sin. And no, I haven't forgotten what you've done. It's better than that, I remember all of it and I love you

anyway. Now come, follow me.'

Jesus is saying to you today; 'Come, follow me, and live in this grace. Live out this grace; and discover life in all my fullness.' You're invited.

8 December 2019

THE UNSETTLING SOLUTION

for just about Everything—2



Today we're in part two of our series: The Unsettling Solution For Just About Everything. And the unsettling solution is 'GRACE'. Grace, that underserved, unearned, unearnable, favour of God, which isn't based on anything we do. In fact, in spite of everything, I've done.

As I mentioned last week grace only exists within a relationship. Grace is just a word until it is experienced, there's no emotion around it, there's no story to tell until it's experienced. Grace requires a relationship.

That's why God had to show up; we would never have known the grace of God without the presence of God. So Jesus comes and lives

grace into our relationships.

Let's look at an encounter where Jesus lives grace into a relationship. We find Jesus on the Temple Mount. For the people of Jesus day this is the holiest place on the planet. Here the people are right where the altar is with the animals being sacrificed. And right over there is the Holy of Holies which houses the very tablets Moses got from God with the Ten Commandments. This is the awe inspiring scene.

Here Jesus is teaching and they drag a woman up to Him and throw her down in front of his feet. Apparently they'd held her all night waiting for this moment.

They throw her down and say, "Jesus, this woman was caught in adultery and the law, which is just over there, we could go and see it if you don't believe us, the law says she must die. She must be stoned to death.

How would have you responded?

Jesus says, "Okay, you are the experts in the law. Stone her." He's calling their bluff. They're not going to stone her right there on the Temple Mount.

She's terrified. Imagine her fear. No mercy, no love, no compassion. No, 'Hey tell me your story.' No, 'What's your background?' She's terrified. And then Jesus does that cool thing. He said, "Alright, you guys

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

start, but just one thing, why don't we start with the person who doesn't have any sin. You go first."

And then Jesus kneels down and he starts writing in the sand. Could he have been writing, 'It takes one to know one.'

The oldest guys in the crowd, they're like, 'Got us again.' They're grabbing the young guys... 'No, don't. This isn't going to end well.' And they all leave.

I'm sure the woman was totally surprised. And then Jesus ruins the moment. He leans down and looks into her eyes and he says, "Leave your life of sin."

Not, 'you're fine. You had a tough upbringing. I know your dad. You're gonna be ok.' No, Jesus said, 'Leave your life of sin.' It's grace and truth. You are guilty, but I don't condemn you. So

how can I be guilty and you don't condemn me? Isn't it either/or?

Not with Jesus. It used to be, but in this moment, for your benefit. Did you get that; for your benefit. For your benefit grace has touched down. There is a new Law Giver. There is a

**GRACE:
Undeserved, Unearned,
Unearnable Favour.**

new Covenant Maker. There is a new representative of God the Father, and he's all grace, all truth, all the time.

This is why even if you never get there intellectually, you should want this to be true. Over and over Jesus leaned in toward the pre-repentant, guilty people and invited them to follow him. Over and over Jesus leaned into people who had not acknowledged their

sin and initiated relationship and said, 'Follow me'.

When Jesus is executed by crucifixion, we witness the ultimate expression of grace. This was the moment that put amazing in grace.

Jesus is executed between two criminals. One joins in mocking Jesus. The other responds; 'Don't you fear God?'

He probably gulped for breath there as to speak was terribly painful and to breathe was terribly painful. The whole aim of crucifixion; every breath painful.

"Don't you fear God? Since you are under the same sentence. We are punished," this is amazing. "Justly. For we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." In other words if the Kingdom of Heaven

is reserved for good people, if the Kingdom of Heaven is reserved for righteous people, if the Kingdom of Heaven is reserved for people who get it right every time, his acknowledgement was we have no hope, and no chance. His only hope was what he deserved the least, something he had extended very little to other people during his life.

So in an act of desperation he turns to Jesus. "Jesus", he says. "When you come to your kingdom because there's no doubt in my mind that where you're going is different to where we're going, Jesus, there's no doubt in my mind that you are a king. Jesus, when you come into your kingdom would you remember me?"

To which the people who could overhear these gasping conversations from

the cross had to think why. Why? What a ridiculous think to ask. Is he repenting? Repenting from a cross is meaningless? There's no way to live faithfully; he's dying. They're thinking; 'there's no way to do anything good for the rest of his meaningless,

Grace is Relational

despicable little life. You have no bargaining power with man or God.'

And then in this moment, Jesus disturbs the order of things.

Jesus does the unthinkable. He listened, and he responded. Jesus, we're told, answered him. Let me ask you a question. Does God hear the prayers of sinners? Yes, those are the only kind of prayers there

are! Jesus answered him.

Every word cost Jesus dearly. Every breath was combined with excruciating pain. But he answers anyway, and do you know why? Because that's what grace does, grace answers anyway.

Jesus said; "Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me; not just here, but in paradise."

Holiness with human hands promised a man who had done nothing good, and had nothing good to offer. Holiness with human hands offered a man who had no bargaining power this promise; today, right now, you'll be with me in paradise. What amazing grace – I'm that man, I have no bargaining power with God. What amazing grace.

Totally underserved, unearned, unearnable, favour