

SERMON NOTES - GraceNotes - Mercy

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

1. What is a "Grace Note"?

Music is a beautiful thing, with harmonies, melodies, rhythms and tones. If it were all one note, or rhythm or type it would be boring.

A grace note is a small unexpected note added to a song that adds beauty and richness.

Grace in the bible is not just one thing.

1 Peter 4:10 NKJV - "10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the **manifold grace** of God."

NIV - "*faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*"

ESV - "*stewards of God's varied grace*"

NASB - "*the multifaceted grace of God*"

2. Elements of grace - more than one part -

Mercy - Pity / kindness , **Justice** - A correct price was paid , **Empowering** - ability, calling, help
Eternity - it seems I was always chosen from before I was born.

Harmony like a rose petal, but...

If we only see one part of God's Grace we miss out on so much.

eg. Mercy vs Empowering. Mercy without Justice

3. Why is grace so important?

It is the unique thing that sets Jesus and Christianity apart from every other religion.

Romans 3:23-24 NKJV - "23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"

Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV - "8 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."

Romans 6:14 NKJV - "14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

Galatians 1:6 NKJV - "6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,"

Galatians 2:16, 21 NKJV - "16 "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. ...

21 "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.""

Galatians 5:1-4 NKJV - "1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace."

4. First element = mercy -

We need MERCY - His kindness and compassion. God did not need to love us, to rescue and forgive us. He did it out of compassion and mercy - something that is not required, but is done as pure favour & mercy.

Psa 116:1-5 NKJV - "1 I love the LORD, because He has heard My voice and my supplications. 2 Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live. 3 The pains of death surrounded me, And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow. 4 Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I implore You, deliver my soul!" 5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful."

GOD'S NAME IS MERCY:(see Ex 33:18 for context)

Exo 34:6-7 NKJV - "6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.""

Psa 103:8 NKJV - "8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy."

Lam 3:22-23 NKJV - "22 Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

Eph 2:4-5 NKJV - "4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),"

Tit 3:4-7 NKJV - "4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

JESUS IS THE IMAGE OF GOD (Jn 14:9, Heb 1:1-3) AND SHOWED MERCY:

Mark 1:40-41 NKJV - "40 Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." 41 Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be **cleansed**.""

Luk 7:12-14 NKJV - "12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, **arise**.""

Mat 9:36 NKJV - "36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no **shepherd**."

Mat 14:14 NKJV - "14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and **healed** their sick."

Mat 15:32 NKJV - "32 Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to **eat**. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.""

CONCLUSION:

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV - "16 Let us therefore come boldly to the **throne of grace**, that we may obtain **mercy and find grace** to help in time of **need**."

Other Verses:

Luke 15:11-32 - the Prodigal son story

James 4:6 NKJV - "6 But He gives **more** grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.""

Rom 11:6 NKJV - "6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work."

2 Peter 3:18 NKJV - "18 but **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.

