

SERMON NOTES - A Place of Grace

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

Jesus healed all who asked for it, and He was extremely kind and gracious to repentant sinners, but certain proud people left Him just as they'd come, and some were verbally rebuked by Him.

There is a posture that enables us to receive from God. Being "Ready to Receive".

Illustration: Catching a cricket ball.

The Man at the pool

Jhn 5:2-9 NKJV - "2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. 5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, **"Do you want to be made well?"** 7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." 8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath."

1. **Jesus** only rebuked those who were proud and/or self righteous

Mar 2:17 NKJV - "17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.""

Adulterous woman - **Jhn 8:11** NKJV - "11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Pharisees - **Mat 23:27** NKJV - "27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness."

2. **Examples** with Jesus:

Rich young ruler - **Mar 10:18** NKJV - "18 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God."

Lawyer - **Luk 10:27, 29** NKJV - "27 So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbour as yourself.' " ... 29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

The right attitude: Paul

1Co 15:9-10 NKJV - "9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

Many think it is about righteousness - being "good enough" - OR seeming righteous and "having it all together". But it is actually much simpler than that. It is seeing myself correctly - in the right position versus God and versus other people. It is in recognising my need correctly.

What is the posture?

Humility - "I am not God. I am not better than anyone else. I am "unprofitable" and deserve / am entitled to nothing"

Accepting and believing in **His grace & power** - "Yet God's grace is enough and He loves me and forgives and accepts and empowers me and so I can do all things through Him"

Obedient - I will ACT on this grace and my belief of God's words.

ERROR #1 - I deserve, I am **entitled**. I am better than others

ERROR #2 - I am useless and unloved and **unlovable**.

Pride vs **humility** so important:

Jas 4:6, 10 NKJV - "6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." ...

10 Humble **yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

"Why does it say Humble yourSELF"?

- Humbling other people is a sin.
 - We aren't qualified to do so
 - We are told to only EDIFY others - Rom 14:19, Eph 4:29, Matt 7:1
- God is unlikely to humble (judge) people, especially in this New Testament era.
 - God is not judging now. He has given judgement to Jesus so he's not angry or judging now & Jesus is also not judging people now. There is no condemnation for us now - Jn 5:22, Jhn 12:46-48, Acts 17:31, John 3:17,18

1 Corinthians 14:3 NKJV — But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

Jhn 5:22-27 NKJV - "22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgement to the Son, 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but has passed from death into life.

Jhn 12:46-48 NKJV - "47 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

Signs of humility...

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| • Secure in self identity & worth | • Willing to learn, submit, obey, trust others, & be corrected |
| • Praises and exalts others | • Doesn't boast, insist on own way, want position, titles, prestige |
| • Gratitude | • Apologises genuinely when wrong |
| • Generosity | • Doesn't insist on position or profile |
| • Treats everyone the same | |

Practical How-to's - How to "humble ourselves"

A servant attitude vs "entitled"

Luk 17:7-10 NKJV - "7 "And which of you, having a servant ploughing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? 8 "But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? 9 "Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 10 "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' ""

Rom 3:12 NKJV - "12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.""

Attitude - The Pharisee & The Tax collector

Luk 18:11, 13-14 NKJV - "11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ... 13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who **humbles himself** will be exalted.""

Don't seek titles

Matthew 23:8-13 NKJV — "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. "And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. "And **whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted**. "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

Being like a child

Matthew 18:4 NKJV — "Therefore **whoever humbles himself** as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Serving others

Matthew 20:26 NKJV — "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

Lower yourself

Luke 14:10-11 NKJV — "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. "For **whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted**."

Submit

1 Peter 5:5,6 NKJV — Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But **gives grace to the humble**."

Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time"

Worship

Psalms 95:6 NKJV — Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Fasting

Psalms 35:13 NKJV — But as for me, when they were sick, My clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart.

Self deception: the danger of pride

1Jo 1:8 NKJV - "8 If we say that we have no sin, we **deceive ourselves**, and the truth is not in us."

Gal 6:3 NKJV - "3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he **deceives himself**."

1Co 3:18 NKJV - "18 Let no one **deceive himself**. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise."

Humble yourself - it results in us receiving His grace.

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.