

Looking for Grace
March 15-16, 2014

I. Making a Stand and Extending Grace: Garrett Kell's Story

"Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?" Romans 2:4

"Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins." James 5:20 (NIV)

II. Extending Grace: Jesus, the Prostitute and the Pharisee – Luke 7:36-50

A. Taking Jesus to Lunch

B. The "Woman of the City" meets Jesus

C. Simon Misses the Point

III. Jesus Takes Simon to School

A. A Tale of Two Debtors

B. It's All About the Heart

C. The Kind of Faith that Saves

"Your faith has saved you—go in peace"

Faith = trust and confidence that God will do what He says He will do

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." Psalm 51:17

"For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from the works of the law." Romans 3:28

IV. The Crissy Moran Story of Repentance, Grace and Forgiveness

V. Key Lessons About Repentance, Grace and Forgiveness

A. No One is Beyond the Reach of God's Grace

"..her sins, which are many, are forgiven"

The church is not a country club for holy people, it's an ER for broken people—and we're all broken people.

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

B. Brokenness, Repentance and Faith Before Grace and Forgiveness

"Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" Romans 2:4

C. God's Grace is a Free Gift and there is Nothing We Can Do to Earn It

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:5-7

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

D. We Represent Jesus Christ to Extend God's Grace to Broken People

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. I Peter 3:15

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Cor. 5:20

E. Everyday Ways to Extend God's Grace to Broken People Around Us

1. Prayer: For those in our life who are far from God
2. Kindness: A tangible expression of the love of Christ
3. Friendship: Often God appoints our relationships for His purposes
4. Help and Encouragement in Crisis: Pain is "God's megaphone"
5. God's Word: Use scripture strategically to address life's issues
6. Rely on God's power: To empower, reveal divine appointments
7. Lead them to Christ: "Do you believe in God?"

VI. God's Grace is Stronger than the Hardest Heart

"The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, the righteous shall live by faith." Rom. 1:16-17

Who do you know? Jesus can save them. Make a stand. Save a soul.

Quotes and Notes

“Grace is God’s free and unmerited favor shown to guilty sinners who deserve only judgment.” Jerry Bridges, *Transforming Grace*, p. 21.

“Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more....And grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us less.... Grace means that God already loves us as much as an infinite God can possibly love.” Philip Yancey, *What’s So Amazing About Grace?*, p. 70

“Perhaps the most difficult task for us to perform is to rely on God’s grace and God’s grace alone for our salvation. It is difficult for our pride to rest on grace. Grace is for other people—for beggars. We don’t want to live by a heavenly welfare system. We want to earn our own way and atone for our own sins. We like to think that we will go to heaven because we deserve to be there.” R. C. Sproul, “Suffering and Merit,” *Tabletalk*, February, 1989

“God never allows pain without a purpose in the lives of his children. He never allows Satan, or circumstances, or any ill-intending person to afflict us unless He uses that affliction for our good. God never wastes pain. He always causes it to work together for our ultimate good, the good of conforming us more to the likeness of His Son.” Jerry Bridges, *Transforming Grace*, p.169

“We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.” C S Lewis

“I have come to know a God who has a soft spot for rebels, who recruits people like the adulterer David, the whiner Jeremiah, the traitor Peter, and the human-rights abuser Saul of Tarsus. I have come to know a God whose Son made prodigals the heroes of his stories and the trophies of his ministry.” Philip Yancey

“In the same way a Christian is not a man who never goes wrong, but a man is enabled to repent and pick himself up and begin over again after each stumble--because the Christ-life is inside him, repairing him all the time, enabling him to repeat (in some degree) the kind of voluntary death which Christ Himself carried out.” C. S. Lewis- *Mere Christianity*”

“The great mistake made by most of the Lord’s people is in hoping to discover in themselves that which is to be found in Christ alone.” Arthur Pink, *The Doctrine of Sanctification*, 1955

“Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate “Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: ‘Ye were bought at a price’, and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

“As you hear my story, I want to encourage you to remember that God’s grace is stronger than the hardest heart. Romans 1:16-17 says, “The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, the righteous shall live by faith. Who is the most unlikely person you know to become a follower of Jesus? Take a moment to think. You have a name? Jesus can save them. And you just might be the person He uses to get the Gospel to them. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation, for rebels like me and rebels like you. Make a stand for Christ and trust Him to use it for His glory. That stand may just save a soul.” Garrett Kell

Resources for Further Study

[Transforming Grace](#), Jerry Bridges

[What’s So Amazing About Grace?](#), Philip Yancey

[The Cost of Discipleship](#), Dietrich Bonhoeffer

[The Normal Christian Life](#), Watchman Nee

[Redeeming Love](#), Francine Rivers

[Building Dynamic Faith](#), Jerry Falwell

[Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus](#), Nabeel Qureshi

[Deep and Wide](#), Andy Stanley

[Whispers of Hope](#), Beth Moore

[God is Able](#), Priscilla Shirer

[Experiencing God Through Prayer](#), Madame Jeanne Guyon