

Links from the Message:

- [Les Misérables "Back to God" Scene](#)
- [Chariots of Fire "Ten Lonely Seconds" Scene](#)
- [Bible Project: Sacrifice and Atonement Video](#)
- Study referenced at the end of the sermon of the people who assisted in the Holocaust rescues was pulled Chapter 6 of the book "Originals" by Adam Grant. It is by **Samuel and Pearl Oliner's landmark research on Holocaust rescuers**, published in *The Altruistic Personality: Rescuers of Jews in Nazi Europe*.

Righteous = right with God, justified

Slave Market Redemption (v. 24)

24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

***Les Misérables**

Temple Sacrifice (v. 25)

25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Propitiation = mercy seat, atonement sacrifice, sacrifice for sin

***Day of Atonement - Yom Kippur - Leviticus 16**

- The spotless blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat.

Law Court Justice (v. 26)

26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

***Chariots of Fire**

"Now in one hours time I will be out there again. I will raise my eyes and look down that corridor, 4 feet wide, with 10 lonely seconds to justify my whole existence. But will I?"

- Harold Abrahams, in the movie "Chariots of Fire"

Justified freely = free justification

Justification is more than just forgiveness

- Forgiveness is a negative - free from liability of punishment
- Justification is a positive - bestowal of a status with all the rights and privileges

The voice that spells forgiveness will say: "You may go; you have been let off the penalty which your sin deserves." But the verdict which means acceptance (justification) will say: "you may come; you are welcome to all my love and my presence."

- Sir Marcus Loane, *The Surpassing Excellence*

What is our Boast?

BOASTING: Whatever we boast about is what defines us.

Whatever you boast in will function as your righteousness, and when it fails, you will feel condemned.

If you boast in your **strength**, your confidence will always be fragile. On days when you feel capable, you will feel bold; on days when you feel weak, you will feel ashamed and defeated.

If you boast in your **family, or in the success and spirituality of your children**, you will turn their lives into a verdict on your own worth. Their success will inflate you; their failures will crush you.

If you boast in your **ethnicity, nationality, work ethic, or accomplishments**, you will need someone beneath you in order to feel good about yourself. Your identity will depend not just on being something, but on being better than someone else.

If you boast in your **morality and good works**, you will become severe with others and merciful with yourself. You will be quick to notice the sins of others and slow to face the pride and self-love in your own heart.

If you boast in being **respected and admired**, you will live for the eyes of others. Praise will be your life, and being ignored will feel like a kind of death.

If you boast in Christ ...

- **If you boast in Christ, you do not need to justify your existence, because God has justified you by grace (*Rom. 3:24*).**
- **If you boast in Christ, you do not need to feel superior to anyone else, because all have sinned, all fall short, and all boasting is excluded (*Rom. 3:23, 27*).**
- **If you boast in Christ, you do not have to be crushed by failure or hide from repentance, because you are justified by faith apart from works (*Rom. 3:26, 28*).**

Boasting in Christ kills both pride and despair:

It kills pride, because all have sinned;

It kills despair, because we are justified freely by his grace.