

Sermon 83: The Immense Grace of God: Luke 15:1-10

Text: Luke 15:1-10 “Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth...”

Summary: Christ taught three parables to a diverse audience, to celebrate God’s immense grace toward sinners, warning the self-righteous and comforting the spiritually broken.

Proposition: He wants us to respond properly to His immense grace.

Truth 1: Anyone has the potential to become a disciple: 15:1 “Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him...”

- **The significance of this statement:**
 - **The people who came: 15:1** “Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him...”
 - **The way Christ responded to them: 15:2** “This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them...”
 - **The flow of Christ’s teaching:**
 - **14:26** “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple...”
 - **14:27** “Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple...”

- **14:33** “Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple...”
- **14:34** “If the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out...”
- **14:35** “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear...”
- **The Implications:**
 - Though they had lived notoriously sinful lives, they came to follow Him.
 - Though they had lived notoriously sinful lives, He accepted them.
 - Though they heard hard teachings, they came to follow Him.

Truth 2: Christ’s teaching was meant to instruct both believers and unbelievers: 15:3 “And he spake this parable unto them...”

- **Everyone needs to hear the gospel:**
 - **God’s grace:** His undeserved favor toward the sinner.
 - **Humble the unbeliever: 1 Corinthians 15:8-10** I was: “One born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain...”
 - **Strengthen the believer: James 4:6** “He giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble...”
 - **God’s justice:** His good and necessary removal of evil.
 - **Warn the unbeliever: Romans 2:2-6** “We are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of

God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds...”

- **Comfort the believer: 2 Thessalonians 1:4-9** “We ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions... Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power...”
- **God’s love:** His benevolent action to the undeserving objects of His affection.
 - **Cause the unbeliever to love God:**
 - **1 John 3:1** “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not...”
 - **1 John 4:19** “We love him, because he first loved us...”
 - **Cause the believer to grow in the depths of his love for God:**
 - **1 John 4:9** “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him...”
 - **1 John 4:12** “No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us...”
 - **Ephesians 3:17-19** I pray that: “Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth,

and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God...”

- **God’s mercy:** His compassion on the infirmities of the spiritually broken.
 - **Confound the unbeliever: Romans 2:4** “Despise thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”
 - **Endear the believer: Lamentations 3:22-25** “It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him...”
- **Two groups with different implications:**
 - **Publicans and sinners:** You can be saved, because His grace is immense!
 - **Pharisees and scribes:** You need to be saved and rejoice in that grace!

Truth 3: Three parables reveal the immensity of God’s grace:

- **Parable 1: 15:4-6** “What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost...”
 - He had 100 sheep.
 - His focus was not on what he had, but rather on the one sheep that was missing.
 - He went and pursued the lost sheep.
 - He rejoiced when he found that lost.
 - He called others to rejoice with him.
- **Parable 2: 15:8-9** “What woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her

friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost...”

- She had ten pieces of silver
- Her focus was not on what she had, but the one piece that was lost.
- She rejoiced when she found what was lost.
- She called others to rejoice with her.
- **Parable 3: 15:11** “A certain man had two sons...”
- **The emphasis of parables 1 and 2:**
 - It is natural to search for lost things.
 - It is natural to rejoice when lost things are found.
 - If it is natural to rejoice over found things, how much more image bearers who are found.
 - God’s grace is celebrated every time a soul is saved.
- **The emphasis parable 3:**
 - God’s grace is incomprehensibly good.
 - It defies our best natural inclinations.
 - It is so far beyond our natural expressions of kindness, that it sometimes makes us uncomfortable when we observe it.
- **The implication:**
 - **To the publicans and the sinners:**
 - God cares about your soul even when others do not.
 - You have access to the truth, because He has sought you out.
 - If you will repent and believe, He will receive you to Himself.
 - He rejoices in your salvation because it celebrates His immense grace.
 - People who fail to celebrate with Him do not know Him.
 - **To the Pharisees and the scribes:**
 - You do not know Him.
 - You do not love Him.
 - Your unwillingness to celebrate lavish displays of His grace reveals the deadness of your soul.
 - He has been seeking your soul just as He has been seeking their souls.

- Even you can be saved from spiritual brokenness as they have been.
- If you repent and believe, He will receive you to Himself.
- He will rejoice in your salvation just as He has rejoiced in their salvation, because each example celebrates His immense grace.

How do we apply these truths?

- **Application 1: We must ask ourselves some very important questions:**
 - Have I been humbled by God's grace?
 - Have I been sobered by God's justice?
 - Have I been stirred up in my soul with a love for Christ?
 - Have I been confounded by God's mercy?
 - Am I a penitent sinner who is trusting alone in the finished work of Christ?
- **Application 2: We must get a renewed sense of God's grace:**
 - He cares about my soul, because He is good.
 - He paid the ultimate price in the death of Christ for my redemption.
 - He looked down on my spiritual brokenness with a heart of unparalleled compassion.
 - He lovingly pursued me through the preaching of the gospel, and I am His child by grace alone.
 - I am no more or less deserving of every blessing I have in Christ than any other Christian.
- **Application 3: We must express this renewed sense of God's grace in passionate worship:**
 - **Living as an expression of worship: 1 Corinthians 15:57-58**
 "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord..."
 - **Singing praise as an expression of worship: Colossians 3:16-17** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and

spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him...”