

“ADJ - Grace of God Part 2” (3-20-22)

Introduction: Grace - God’s action on our behalf showing undeserved love & favor toward us

John 8:2-11 (ESV)

(2) Early in the morning (Jesus) came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. (3) The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst (4) they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. (5) Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” (6) This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. (7) And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” (8) And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. (9) But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. (10) Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” (11) She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

Dave Buehring quote on Grace

“Grace is God’s stepping into our circumstances to intervene on our behalf”

Today: 3 ways that God intervenes with Grace on our behalf . . .

1) Grace - calms the storm

John 8:5-7 (ESV)

(5) Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” (6) This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. (7) And as they continued to ask him . . . ”

Note: Notice the atmosphere & urgency - the demand for action, for “justice”, for blood. Before he even bothers to intervene with action, his very presence brings calm. Just a few short moment later . . .

- What a small glimmer of hope this must have been to the woman
- How powerful for those involved - he slows them down, because he is about to invite them into His grace

Examples of this in Jesus ministry:

- Literal storms
- Wailing & mourning at funerals (like Jarius’ daughter)
- Demons - silenced then cast out
- Even at the announcement of Jesus’ arrival on earth - “Fear Not”

Notice just a few moments later what Jesus says about himself . . .

John 8:12 (ESV)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Note: Grace shines a light of hope into the chaos and darkness of this world. Will I allow his very presence to calm me enough to recognize He is here & ready to act on my behalf.

Personal Example: Our lost dog on snow day

Application: Do you recognize the presence of Grace, and allow him to bring calm? Who knows what he might do next on your behalf.

2) Grace - disarms the enemy

John 8:7-9 (ESV)

(7) And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." (8) And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. (9) But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

Note: Jesus disarms the enemy with truth. He calms them, & now he invites them to action based on truth.

John 8:44 (ESV)

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

NIV Translation - "When he lies, he speaks his native language"

Note: The enemy lies, he stirs up deadly desires in us, so that His will becomes our own! Jesus disarms the enemy by waking us up to the truth!

3) Grace - brings true freedom

John 8:10-11 (ESV)

(10) Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" (11) She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

Note: Grace - is not just a get out of jail free card. Grace invites us to live in truth . . .

- Light - follow Him into the light of life . . .

John 8:12 (ESV)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- Truth - abide in His word ("truth speaking") and you will be free

John 8:31-32 (ESV)

(31) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:33 (ESV)

They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

Note: See how sin ensnares us so that the truth becomes twisted. Of course they have been enslaved!

- Real Freedom - this is Jesus' offer!

John 8:34-36 (ESV)

(34) Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. (35) The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (36) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Conclusion: Grace intervenes on our behalf - no matter the cost. Consider . . .

At the beginning of this story the woman is about to be stoned. By the end - Jesus is in her place!

John 8:59 (ESV)

So they picked up stones to throw at him . . .

Because ultimately the way God intervenes on our behalf with His Grace is by putting Himself in our place!