

Startled by Grace Part 12: "Grace for All" (6-24-2018)

Series: "Startled by Grace . . . Waking up to the very Good News! The same Gospel that saves you is the Gospel that sustains you. We should wake up to this good news today and everyday!"

Today: "Grace for All" – We are going to look at 2 examples from the life of David - Mephibosheth & Bathsheba

1) Grace for the Outsider

Recap the Story of David & Mephibosheth (This story is found in 2 Samuel chapter 9)

a) Grace longs to be demonstrated

2 Samuel 9:1

And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

Note: This story of David pursuing Mephibosheth in order to show kindness echoes the very heart of God . . .

Luke 14:21-23 (ESV)

(21) So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' (22) And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' (23) And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'

Note: Notice Jesus heart – the crippled, poor, blind, and lame, all those out on the highways & edges of town!

b) Grace is for all – especially the unlovely

Mephibosheth is crippled & lame, and he is living in Lo Debar (barren or desolate place, or pasture-less)

Beware: Part of what can happen to the "unlovely" is that we misunderstand the king's intentions toward us . . .

2 Samuel 4:4 – tells the story of how Mephibosheth became lame . . .

- It was assumed that the new King David would kill him instead of being kind.
- Accidents happened while mis-understanding & fleeing from the King!

So he ends up injured, poor, desolate, but Grace wouldn't leave him there – it came knocking on His door!

And it scared the crap out of him!!!

c) Grace dispels fear & brings restoration

2 Samuel 9:7 (ESV)

And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always."

Note: Don't fear, restoration of all that was lost & a seat at the table!!!

Restoration of Relationship with the King . . .

- "you shall eat at my table always" (vs 7)
- "Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table" (vs 10)
- "So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons" (vs 11)

And finally we see something so key . . .

2 Samuel 9:13 (ESV)

So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

Note: Our brokenness doesn't have to keep us from a seat at the king's table.

Will we choose to receive his mercy & grace?

Read: A.W. Tozer quote from Knowledge of the Holy (pg. 92)

2) Grace for the Insider

Recap the Story of David & Bathsheba (This story is found in 2 Samuel chapter 11-12)

- **David's Sin:** sees Bathsheba – inquires about her – sends for her – and sins with her – pregnant
 - Sin entices first by **getting our gaze**
 - Then **we mull it over** – entertained the idea & then pursued it
 - Finally **we act on it** – and you can be sure that your sin will find you out – she got pregnant!
- **David's Cover-up:** Always worse than the original sin!
 - David sends for Uriah to come home from the battle – but he refuses to see his wife!
 - David invites Uriah to dinner and gets him drunk – still refuses to go to his wife!
 - David sends him to the battle lines - carrying the instructions for his arranged death
 - David acts as if it's a normal accident – sword devours now one & now another. Oh well.

2 Samuel 11:26-27 (ESV)

(26) When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. (27) And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

a) Grace confronts Sin

Notice How Grace confronts sin – it brings you to a place of understanding (if you will let it!)

Recap: Nathan confronts David (2 Samuel 12)

- **Nathan the prophet arrives and tells a story** (vs. 1-4)
- **David passes Judgment** (vs. 5-6) . . .

2 Samuel 12:5-6 (ESV)

(5) Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, (6) and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

- **Nathan's response:** "You are the man!"
- **Nathan describes the fallout:** A sword will divide your house, and your wives will cheat on you in very public ways, sometimes with members of your own household!
- **David's response** . . .

2 Samuel 12:13a (ESV)

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Note: We could learn a lot from David's simple response – no explanations, justifications, or begging for mercy. He just owns it.

- **Grace & Consequences** . . .

2 Samuel 12:13b-14 (ESV)

. . . And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. (14) Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die."

Note: When people who are in authority or have walked with Jesus along time sin big time like this, there is absolutely Grace for them. But, massive damage has been done & there are harmful consequences!

It breaks God's heart:

- Because He is misrepresented!
- Because He takes it personally – He aligns himself with the weak and takes up their cause!

So what can we do?

b) We respond to Grace with Repentance & Mourning

2 Samuel 12:16-20 – records David’s repentance & mourning

Recap: David fasted, prayed, and lay on the ground for a week! The child died, and then David worships by going to the tabernacle and He poured out his heart to God (**Psalm 51 – your homework this week**)

Examples from Psalm 51:

- Asks for mercy (not based on his merit) based on God’s steadfast love!
- Desires to be made clean
- Can’t escape facing his sin & has a broken & contrite spirit (the real sacrifices God wants)
- Asks to have it purged, cleansed, and wants a clean & new heart!
- Can’t bear the thought of being out of the Lord’s presence!

c) Grace responds to us with Comfort & Restoration

2 Samuel 12:22-25 (ESV)

(22) He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' (23) But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me." (24) Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him (25) and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

Note:

- David understands Grace is eternal – His child died, but they will be re-united
- David & Bathsheba are comforted – they even receive another child & name him **Solomon**: “Peace”
- God has a special name for Solomon: **Jedidiah** – which means: “Beloved of God”