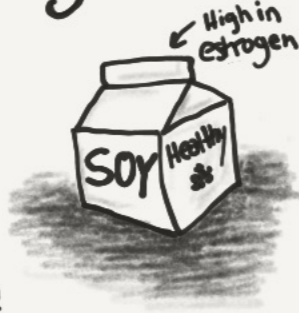


There are times in life when we realize that what we thought was true actually wasn't.

Maybe you grew up in church with an image of God that's not real.



Or you saw things on the news or in the lives of Christians you knew that gave you presuppositions.

A young rich man once approached Jesus with his own presuppositions.

"Good teacher, what must I do to gain eternal life?"

Jesus challenged the man's beliefs.

"There's only one who is good, and that's God. Do you really believe I'm God, or are you just saying that to flatter me into telling you what you want to hear?"

He believed he could earn a spot in Heaven through his actions and was using Jesus as a tool for acknowledgement.

Often, we will use RELIGION to get what we want.

We believe that if we're good, God will reward us. If we're bad, He'll punish us.



Then, instead of looking to God as our standard, we compare ourselves to other people.

To make ourselves feel better for not being able to make it all the way up the stairs to God on our own, we LOOK DOWN on those who aren't doing as well as we are.



Jesus was trying to tell the young rich man that we are all broken.

NONE OF US can make it on our own.

It's not about works. It's about how we respond to the free gift of grace God gave us.

Why does grace scare us?

A woman who grew up believing we have to earn our way to Heaven once said:

"If I was saved by good works, there would be a limit to what God could ask of me. I would be like a taxpayer with rights... But if I am really saved by sheer grace - at God's infinite cost - then there's nothing He can't ask of me."  
-The Prodigal God, Timothy Keller

We don't have to keep trying to earn His love.

When we remember God's grace, we will realize our brokenness, God's love for us, and the importance of sacrifice.