

## **Summer By The Sea**

### **Week 3: Muddy Waters**

**Objective:** To challenge us to humbly receive the grace of God.

**ICEBREAKER:** Think of a time when something that should have been simple became unnecessarily complicated.

- What happened?
- Looking back, what made it more difficult than it needed to be?

#### **1. Why Do We Complicate Simple Things?**

The sermon began with the observation that some people have a way of making simple things complicated.

- Why do you think we sometimes overcomplicate life?
- Have you ever noticed yourself doing this?
- In what areas of life do people tend to make things harder than they need to be?

#### **2. A Great Man with a Great Need**

Naaman was successful, respected, powerful, and influential—but he still had a problem he couldn't solve.

- What stands out to you about Naaman's situation?
- Why is it difficult for successful or capable people to admit they need help?
- What does Naaman's story teach us about the limitations of human strength?

#### **3. Grace Often Comes Through Unexpected People**

God's solution began with a young servant girl who had been taken captive.

- Why do you think God so often works through unexpected people?
- Have you ever received wisdom or encouragement from someone you least expected?
- What does this teach us about humility?

#### **4. Offended by Grace**

When Elisha told Naaman simply to wash in the Jordan River, Naaman became angry.

- Why was Naaman offended by such a simple instruction?
- Why do you think pride often wants grace to be earned rather than received?
- In what ways do people still try to "earn" God's grace today?

#### **5. Pride Muddies the Waters**

One of the key statements from the sermon was:

**God's grace is simple to receive, but my pride makes it hard to accept.**

- Why is pride such a barrier to receiving God's grace?
- What are some subtle ways pride shows up in our lives?
- Why is humility essential to spiritual growth?

#### **6. Grace Changes Us**

After Naaman was healed, his life didn't simply return to normal.

His worship, loyalties, and future decisions all began to change.

- Why is obedience the fruit of grace rather than the price of grace?
- How has God's grace changed you over time?
- Why is transformation evidence of genuine grace?

#### **7. Receiving Grace Today**

Toward the end of the sermon, several examples were given:

- apologizing
- forgiving
- asking for help
- confessing sin
- returning to prayer
- telling the truth
- Which of those simple acts is most difficult for you?
- Why do you think we resist simple obedience?
- What simple step might God already be asking you to take?

## **8. Personal Application**

Bring it home personally.

- Where do you most need God's grace right now?
- Is pride making that area more complicated than it needs to be?
- What would it look like to simply receive God's grace and respond with obedience?

### **FINAL THOUGHT**

Naaman almost walked away from the very thing he desperately needed—not because grace was difficult, but because his pride made it seem too simple.

The same temptation exists for us.

Whether we need God's saving grace or His transforming grace, the invitation remains the same:  
Lay down your pride.

Receive what only God can give.

**Grace is simple. Pride muddies the waters.**

### **THIS WEEK – RECEIVE GRACE**

Choose one area of your life where pride may be keeping you from experiencing God's grace.

### **CONFESS**

Be honest with God about where pride has taken root.

### **RECEIVE**

Stop trying to earn what Christ has already provided.

### **OBEY**

Take one simple step of obedience that God has already made clear.

### **REFLECT**

Each day ask yourself:

- Am I trying to manage God's grace...
- ...or am I simply receiving it?