



**Amazing (Grace)**  
Sermon 1 – Pastor Kevin  
**October 9, 2022**

**SCRIPTURE:**

**Luke 15: 11-31, NLT**

<sup>11</sup> To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So, his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. <sup>13</sup> A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. <sup>14</sup> About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. <sup>15</sup> He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home, even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."<sup>20</sup> So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. <sup>22</sup> But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. <sup>23</sup> And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.'

So, the party began. <sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, <sup>26</sup> and he asked one of the servants what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.' <sup>28</sup> "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, <sup>29</sup> but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. <sup>30</sup> Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!' <sup>31</sup> "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours.'

**John 1: 14-17, NLT**

<sup>14</sup> So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. <sup>15</sup> John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'" <sup>16</sup> From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.

**WARM-UP**

- When you think about the word "grace", what definitions, thoughts, memories, or ideas come to mind?
- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

**(Below you will find the main points of this week's sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)**

**Thought #1 – The Simplest Definition of Grace: An Undeserved Gift!**

Verses: Luke 15:20-31

- Pastor Kevin asked us to begin to understand God's grace as a great gift that

is extravagant, free, and relational (rather than transactional). As a group, go through each of these words. What does each of these words tell you about the grace of God? Go beyond the definitions of each word and try to elaborate on what each word means to you. What are the implications of extravagant, free, and relational?

- Transactional grace means I will show you grace now if you show me grace later. Relational grace is shown with nothing expected in return. Do you struggle with the concept of receiving the underserved or unmerited grace of God? Why or why not?

**Thought #2 – Let's look at the story!**

Verses: Luke 15:20-31

- Pastor Kevin, in relating the thoughts and feelings that typically emerge at the hearing of the story of the lost sons (prodigal son)(prodigal Father), almost always add a qualifier to the word grace, qualifiers like “amazing”. When you think of the grace that the Father shows in this story, what other qualifiers come to mind? Explain.
- As you think about the response of the oldest son, what qualifiers do you think he would have put on the grace that the Father showed his younger brother? Why? In your opinion, what was it that the older son did not quite understand about the grace and love the Father had for both brothers?

**Thought #3 – Think of grace, not as something, but as someone.**

Verses: Luke 15:20-31 and John 1:14-17

- If we were to think about God's grace as a relationship rather than an experience, what might change in our thinking, behaviors, relationship with God, and relationship with others?
- Pastor Kevin said that relational grace should lead to transformation. Tell your story. How have you seen your thinking, character, behavior, or understanding transformed as you have come to know Jesus more?

\*\*\*Remember to record your attendance for the week. Thank you.

## How can we pray for each other this week?

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Questions for Pastor Todd Keller or Julie Burch regarding your REMIX group?

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