



"Grace Overflowing"

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Sunday | November 3rd, 2019 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 Timothy 1:12-17

(See also Lk. 7:41-50, Acts 22:1-22, Php. 3:4-11, Rev. 2:2-5)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

The Tale of the King, the Carrot, and the Horse

"Once upon a time, a very poor carrot farmer lived on a small farm in rural England. During one harvesting season, he unearthed the largest carrot he had ever seen. He thought, 'Now that is a carrot that befits a king.' So he traveled to the king's palace, obtained an audience, [and] laid the carrot joyfully at the king's feet. 'Oh king,' he said, 'you have always been such a wonderful, fair and gracious king to me, and I love you very much. As a token of my love for you, I want you to have this carrot. It is a gift which you truly deserve.'" The king, touched by the man's simple offering, responded, 'Thank you for this gift. I happen to own the farmland that surrounds your farm and I would like to give you the land as a gift. Please know that it also is a small token of the affection that I have for you, my son.'"

One of the king's noblemen, standing in the court that day, thought, 'Wow! If the king would give all that farmland in response to a carrot, imagine what he would give for a real gift!' So the nobleman went that night and found the most majestic horse he'd ever seen and brought it to the king the next day. The crafty nobleman said, 'King, you are a wonderful and worthy king. As a token of my love for you, I want you to have this horse as a gift.'

*The king, being very wise, saw through the ruse, and said to the nobleman, 'Yesterday the poor man was giving the carrot to me. But today, you are giving the horse to yourself.'"*¹

¹(1) J.D. Greear, *Gospel* (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2011), p. 35, 36 (See endnote #6 on p. 258 re: Spurgeon citation; as well, notes that D. Martin-Lloyd Jones told the story as well). Story also appears here, (2) Tim Keller, *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith* (New York, NY: The Penguin Group, 2008), p. 60-62.

DISCUSS

1. Read the above story and discuss the differences between entitlement and gratitude.
2. What biblical stories or characters come to mind when thinking of both entitlement and gratitude in approaching God?
3. Related to the above question, read both Lk. 18:9-14 and Lk. 7:41-50 and discuss. What encourages you? What stirs conviction?
4. Read 1 Tim. 1:12-17 and discuss. Do you see your own story in Paul's story (see also Acts 22:1-22 and Php. 3:4-11)? In what way specifically?
5. What does Paul mean when he said, "I am the foremost [of sinners]" (1 Tim. 1:15), and why did he consider vs. 15 to be a "trustworthy" saying, "deserving of full acceptance"?
6. Read Rev. 2:2-5 and discuss. What does it look like to have "abandoned the love you had at first"? What might repentance look like?
7. As a group, stir gratitude by listing all the evidences of "Grace Overflowing" in your life through the power of the Gospel.
8. What immediate applications can be made in light of this sermon?