



God's Great Gamble

God neither asked our permission— nor programmed our acceptance— before offering us forgiveness at great cost to Himself. While we were powerless to make ourselves worthy of Jesus, he sacrificed himself in death for us. In this strange act, God revealed the extent of his love. Unlike human beings, who treat forgiveness as risky and transactional, God freely offered grace to people who could never hope to deserve it on their own.

Getting Started

1. What big risks have you taken in your life? Relationally? Financially? With your time and effort?

What About You?

2. Have you ever forgiven someone without being asked? What happened?
3. Why do you think we tend to wait on an apology to offer forgiveness? Do you agree with Andy that this leaves the other person in control?
4. Why does the idea of a freely-given grace bother so many people? What feelings does it stir up in you?
5. How do our own judgments and prejudices affect our understanding of grace as it applies to ourselves? Other people?



Look It Up

Matthew 18:21-22, Luke 5:20-26, 7:37-49, 23:33-34, Romans 5:6-8

6. What do you think motivated Peter to ask this question?
7. What was so controversial about the paralyzed man's attempt to get to Jesus? What was alarming about the things Jesus said during this encounter?
8. What all did Jesus risk in accepting the foot wash from the "sinful" woman? What all did the woman get right that Simon did not?
9. When you carefully observe the things Jesus does and says in these passages– as well as the way Paul describes the sacrifice of God– what does it reveal about the character of God?

Putting It All Together

10. Do you ever find yourself resisting the idea that you are *powerless* to make yourself right with God without his grace? How can you foreground your dependence on grace in your thoughts this week?
11. Think about your day to day routines. What do they reveal about how you respond to God's great gamble?
12. Are there any aspects of life that you find yourself "withholding" from God's grace (as if such a thing were even possible)? Would you be willing to honestly bring these things to God in prayer this week?
13. Are there any relationships in which you are denying the same forgiveness that God gave you (and for a much greater debt)? What steps could you take to forgive this week?

