

#1 - INTRODUCTION

I. Media

1. VIDEO: Coleman
2. Cody
3. Devan
4. Paden
5. Yoti

II. Demonstration

1. Shake water bottle

III. Silent, But Deadly

1. Many, many of you father and mothers in here this morning carry a particular problem into your parenting...you just don't know it.
 - (1) It affects the way you think about the task that has been assigned to you.
 - (2) It affects the way you view your children.
 - (3) It shapes your responses in all the hard moments that you face with your kids.
 - (4) It determines what you will say to yourself as you begin your day or as you crumble into bed, exhausted.
 - (5) It leaves many of you as parents wishing you could just quit, some days, when you know in fact you can't.
 - (6) It tempts you to look over the fence and wish you could have what other parents seem to have, but what seems to have passed you by.
 - (7) It makes you as parents give in to the temptation to say and do things that you know your heart of hearts you shouldn't say and shouldn't do.
2. What is this silent but deadly problem?
 - (1) It is what is about to come spilling out of us when our kids shake our identity, our confidence, or our patience.
 - (2) But instead, what comes out is fear, control, anger & anxiety.
 - (3) What is this problem that afflicts so many of us as parents?
 - i. Far too many Christian parents have a great big, trouble-causing gap in their understanding, celebration of, and reliance upon **God's grace**.
 - ii. **Paul Tripp**: *"There is nothing more important to consistent, faithful, patient, loving and effective parenting than to understand what God has given you in the grace of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ."*
3. More theology!?!
 - (1) "Allen, I don't need more theology! I believe everything the Bible has to say, but it doesn't seem to have helped my parenting! I need practical help!"
 - (2) This morning: Open your heart, and be patient with me as I explain...because this may be the most important week in the whole series apart from last week.
 - (3) Understanding God's grace will change you, and as it changes you, it will change the way you relate to and parent your kids.

→ **BIG IDEA:** God requires an end without supplying the means. Therefore, you're calling on a parent comes with the equipping to do so.



#2 - WHY A LEGACY OF GRACE MATTERS

I. What Is Grace?

1. Grace Is Present

- (1) Most Christian parents have a fairly good understanding of “past grace”.
- (2) Some Christian parents have a decent grasp of “future grace”.
- (3) Very few have a comprehensive portrait of “present grace”.
 - i. The right here, right now benefits of grace.
 - ii. So many of you “the gospel of God’s grace” has very little to do with the exhaustion you can’t seem to shake, or the anger you can’t seem to defeat, or the wisdom you feel you lack, or the need for a break you can’t seem to get.

Eph. 3:20-21: *“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

Matt. 6:25-31: *“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’”*

- (4) What does this have to do with parenting? Everything!
 - i. It means that if you are God’s child, it is impossible for you to be left to your own limited package of resources.
 - ii. God best gift to you as a parent is Himself. He is with you.

2. Grace Is Necessary

Deu. 11:2b: *“...consider the discipline of the Lord your God, his greatness, his mighty hand and his outstretched arm...”*

- (1) Grace comes in the form of discipline.

Prov. 3:12: *“...for the LORD reproveth him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.”*

- (2) Discipline isn’t a punishment...but is grace itself. In other words, the fact that something is hard...creates a need for dependence.
- (3) Like everything else in Scripture that God calls people...God doesn’t call you to be parents because you are able.
- (4) Read the Bible carefully. e.g. Judges (Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Abraham, Moses, David, the disciples).
- (5) “Able” people do not exist.
 - i. I know it makes is hard, especially around California moms. The mom who only feeds her kids organic food.
 - ii. “What are they eating”? “Oh, that’s a gluten-free, dairy-free, organic, sugarless brownie”.
 - iii. I’m a terrible parent. We ate mac and cheese straight from the box last night. I was to tired to actually boil the macaroni.



- iv. You're still spreading chicken nuggets across the floor so you can nap.
- v. And every time you're over their house it seems like "Michael's" opened up a mobile training center in their living room.
- vi. "what is that?" "oh, it's a fully functioning generator made with paper-maché, powered by essential oils".
- vii. Your kids are still drawing on the wall with their own poop.
- viii. I get it, their are dads who have kids can recite Leviticus...from memory....in Hebrew.
- ix. You kids are watching "The Notebook" so you can just breathe for minute.
- x. These dad's seem to be involved in and at everything their kids do.
- xi. You're trying to pay rent in the most expensive place on earth, which means you miss a bunch of stuff.
- xii. But when you're not around...and if they're honest...they're not able either. It's just as heart-breaking, pain-staking, and back-straining as your home.
- xiii. Therefore, "able" parents to don't exist. Because God did not create you to be independently able. He designed us to be dependent.

Titus 2:11-14: *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation **for all people**, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."*

(6) Grace is for all people...and to enable us to do good works...our parenting included

II. Grace In Our Inability

1. Why Would God Do This?

- (1) Why would a God of perfect wisdom ask inadequate people to do such an important job? That answer is so important to grasp.
 - i. God calls unable people to do important things because ultimately what he's working on is not your immediate result or immediate success...but that you would come to depend upon His grace...which changes us...and glorifies Him.
 - ii. In other words: God calls you, an unable person, to do important things so that he will get the glory and not you.

2. Perceived "Ability" Is A Burdensome Legacy

- (1) No one really wants to be parented by parents who think they're "able".
- (2) **Perceived Ability Produces:**
 - i. **Pride/Self-Righteousness** - pride themselves in law keeping. This pride makes them act too quickly in, often, damaging ways. One of those ways is...
 - ii. **Lack of patience & understanding** - assume their kids should be able too, so they fail to be tender when the weakness of their children get exposed.
 - iii. **Trophy Children** - a public demonstration of their "ability". I'm a good parent because my kids can _____, or eat _____, or are involved with _____.

→ **BIG IDEA:** God requires an ends without supplying the means. Therefore, you're calling to parent comes with the equipping to do so.

#3 - SIGNS OF A LEGACY OF GRACE

I. **Grace Produces Freedom From Ourselves**

- 1. Grace opens our eyes to see ourselves as a parent accurately.



- (1) He uses things like our marriages and our parenting to expose our hearts to us.
- (2) He uses them to expose thoughts, attitudes, desires in your heart that you previously denied were there.

2. You are more like your children than unlike them

- (1) There are few struggles in the lives of your children that aren't in your life as well (rebellion, materialism, relationships, wanting your own way, attraction to the world, etc).

3. We are freed from denying our weaknesses

- (1) God never asks you to act as a parent as if you're something that you're not. Just the opposite.
 - i. God welcomes you to look at your self in the heart- and life-exposing mirror of His Word to see yourself as you really are.
- (2) You're kids know the real you.
 - i. They will know all your spiritual and character weaknesses.
 - ii. If you deny them, you will embitter your kids.
 - iii. But if you quickly confess them...you will endear yourself...in some part...to them and present yourself as someone who will be approachable when they have failed.
 - iv. Humble and confessing parents produce a humble and confessing legacy for their children.

4. Therefore, we are freed from blaming others for those weaknesses

- (1) When you're freed to confess your weaknesses...something becomes crystal clear:
 - i. The biggest, ongoing problem as a parent is not your kids...it's you.
- (2) Our kids are not the problem
 - i. Your children do not cause you do and say what you do and say.
 - ii. They are simply the means through which God reveals what's already in your heart.
 - iii. So you need something much deeper than rescue and relief from your kids...you need rescue and relief from yourselves. This is why Jesus came.
 - iv. If you blame your kids for you bad attitudes, actions, and words...not only will you embitter them...but in blaming them...you will fail to reach out for the help offered to you in Jesus' rescuing, forgiving, and transforming grace.

II. Grace Produces Freedom From Hard-Heartedness

1. We Need To Change And Grow

- (1) Hard-hearted = we think we are right and ok...therefore we don't feel the need to change and grow.
- (2) I am convinced hard-hearted people don't know they are hard-hearted.
 - i. Picture stone: resistant to movement and change
- (3) in every moment as you are parenting your kids, the heavenly Father is parenting you.
 - i. We need to grow & mature and God gives us the grace of a marriage and kids to that end.
 - ii. Like our children, we haven't progressed beyond the need for a Father's care. Like our children, we need a parent who will not turn their back on us even though we stumble and fall again and again.

2. Soft Heart Produces A Soft Response

- (1) Not "weak". But soft.
- (2) People who deny weakness tend not to be patient, loving and understanding with people who are weak.

III. Grace Produces Freedom From Performance Anxiety

1. What's wrong with my kids?!?



- (1) "Able" parents seem to be upset when children demonstrate over and over again that what they need is to be parented!
- (2) When we walk into a room mad that we have to correct our kids...again...what we're mad about in that moment is that they need what every human being constantly needs: a parent's care.
- (3) But if we walk into that same room confusing our need of the Father's care, it is more likely that we will embrace the need of our children for the same care...and will be tender in giving it.

IV. **Grace Produces Freedom From Generational Curses**

1. Some of you think being different that my parents is the solution.

- (1) Some of you, without even realizing it, in actuality struggle because your can't be.
 - i. Some are seeing just how like them you are...despite your best efforts.
 - ii. News for some: that's not as bad of news as you perceive it to be
 - iii. News for others: that worse news than you make it out to be
- (2) Curses:
 - i. Anger; addiction; debt; divorce (what are some others?)
 - ii. Because of these curses handed down to us or produced by us, we experience...

V. **Grace Produces Freedom From Persistent Regret**

1. "What Ifs" and "If Onlys"

- (1) There are many of you who are paralyzed by a whole catalog of "what ifs" and "if onlys".
- (2) The issue is not whether you have regrets...whether you remember the mistakes of your past days of parenting:
 - i. This issue is: are you emotionally and spiritually paralyzed by them in a way that makes it hard for you to do what God is calling you to do in the present?
- (3) God's grace welcomes you to learn from your past, to confess your faults, receive forgiveness, lay down your burden of guilt and shame, and with a new hop and courage give yourself with joy to what God is calling you to do as parent right here, right now.

#4 - CONCLUSION

I. **Leaving a Legacy Worth Leaving: Grace**

1. God has called you to be a parent. He also supplied you with the necessary means in:
 - (1) First, He gives you Himself.

II. **Final Gospel Questions:**

1. Have you forgotten that you are not alone in your house with your children or in your church with those He has called you parent?
2. Have you forgetting that someone else walks the hallways and stand in the family room with you?
3. Someone rides in the car with you on the way to another scary place or event.
4. Someone walks with you as you enter your kids room to confront them about something they did
5. Someone is with your as you relive the vents of day before you fall asleep, preparing to do it again tomorrow.
6. And have you forgotten someone will be with you when you wake up tomorrow to do it again?

VIDEO: "Grace"

