



# Grace-Fueled Acceptance

## OUR ESSENTIALS: Grace-Fueled Acceptance

*Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 1:40-45*

### Summary:

When Jesus loved a person who did not yet love Him, that was grace. Grace is Jesus giving His life for someone when they would never deserve to receive that gift. Grace is Jesus doing for people what they can never do for themselves, that is, saving them from their sins and giving them forgiveness and the gift of eternal life. “Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.” 2 Christians are to love one another the way Jesus demonstrated love for them. Loving others this way is not easy and frankly, it’s not supposed to be. Christians can depend on the working of the Holy Spirit to help them in their weak moments to love one another the way Jesus loved them and to extend grace to one another the way Jesus extended grace to them. 2) The Baptist Faith and Message 2000

### **Our Values determine priorities in our ministries and shape our culture.**

*31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’*

*41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

**Matthew 25:31-46**

• **We place a high value on grace-fueled acceptance because Jesus gives it a high value.**

- Jesus will come in His Glory with all the angels with Him. He will judge the nations and separate people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

- *Sheep* on the Right exercised Grace-fueled Acceptance
- *Goats* on the Left did not exercise Grace-fueled Acceptance

I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,  
I was naked and you clothed me,  
I was sick and you visited me,  
I was in prison and you came to me.

*37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

**Matthew 25:37-40**

• **Grace-fueled Acceptance only comes from a heart softened by the gospel and a mind set on others not self.**

*40 A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said. 41 Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" 42 Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed. 43 Then Jesus sent him on his way with a stern warning: 44 "Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed." 45 But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him.*

**Mark 10:40-45**

• **Grace-fueled Acceptance leads to Grace-fueled Acceptance**

*Even though we had some standing as Christ's apostles, we never threw our weight around or tried to come across as important, with you or anyone else. We weren't standoffish with you. We took you just as you were. We were never patronizing, never condescending, but we cared for you the way a mother cares for her children. We loved you dearly. Not content to just pass on the Message, we wanted to give you our hearts. And we did.*

**1 Thessalonians 2:6-8**

Relevant Verses: *John 3:16-17; Matthew 7:1-5; Luke 15:11-32, 19:1-10; Romans 15:1-7, Matthew 25:31-46, Luke 10:25-37*

## Life Application Sermon Guide

1. Read John 3:16-17. What stands out to you in verse 16? Verse 17?
2. Did Jesus call you to judge others and condemn them for their sins?
3. Read Matthew 7:1-5
4. What does it mean to judge someone? How can a judgemental attitude be avoided? Changed?
5. Define prejudice. Reread John 3:16 & 17. What can be done to limit or eliminate prejudice?
6. Read Luke 19:1-10
7. How had Zachaeus been judged? Who had judged him? What did Jesus do that began to change everything for Zachaeus?
8. How does Jesus want you to follow His pattern of grace-fueled acceptance? Consider how Jesus saw and treated Zacchaeus, the father saw and treated his prodigal son and the Good Samaritan treated his neighbor. What would it take for you to begin extending grace-fueled acceptance like they did?
9. How can you begin to practice grace-fueled acceptance to more people where you live, work and play?

Verses to Remember: Matthew 7:1-5, 1 Thessalonians 2:6-8

Point to Ponder: Jesus came not to condemn the world but to save those in it.

Put Into Practice: See and treat people the way Jesus saw and treated Zacchaeus, the father saw and treated his prodigal son, and the Good Samaritan saw and treated his neighbor.

Website: [https://bit.ly/FBG\\_Grace-FueledAcceptance](https://bit.ly/FBG_Grace-FueledAcceptance)

Playlist: Amazing Grace <https://youtu.be/CDdvReNKKuk>

Amazing Grace/My Chains are gone <https://youtu.be/Jbe7OruLk8I>