



FEBRUARY 15, 2026 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart

Jesus Changes Everything

Judgment → Grace

Scripture: Romans 3:23–24; Hebrews 9:27; Luke 15:11–32; Ephesians 2:1–9; Titus 3:3–7

Spotlight: The cross is where judgment fell so grace could flow.

Summary: Everyone stands guilty before a holy God. Sin brings judgment, separation, and spiritual death—and no one escapes that verdict without help. Judgment is real, but not the final word.

Scripture makes it clear that everyone has sinned (Romans 3:23). People are spiritually dead and without hope (Ephesians 2:1). But then comes the great turning point of grace—*“But God...”* In His love and kindness intervened. What we could never earn, He freely gives through Jesus Christ.

At the cross, judgment did not disappear—it fell fully and finally on Jesus. The wrath our sin deserved was satisfied so mercy could be extended to sinners like us. Salvation is not self-improvement or religious effort; it is a rescue. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 3:4–7).

This introduction calls every listener—whether far from God or standing near but self-reliant—to see the cross clearly. The door of grace is still open. The Father is still watching the road. And Jesus has already paid the price.

Grace - to be made free from the guilt of sin (Sin never existed - as far as the east from the west - Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:18–19)

Mercy - to be set free from the punishment of sin (Punishment never executed - Psalm 103:10)

I. Sin Desired.

Romans 3:23-24

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Titus 3:3

Luke 15:13 - Wasted all his money in wild living.

- When sin is desired, judgment is deserved.

II. Judgment Deserved.

Hebrews 9:27

And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment

Luke 15:21 - Father I have sinned against both Heaven and you. I am no longer worthy of being called your son.

Judgment was deserved but Grace was delivered

III. Grace Delivered.

Luke 15:11-32

Luke 15:22-23 - Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.

Punishment was Expected but Inheritance was now Destined

Grace has been delivered and new life has been declared.

IV. New Life Declared.

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 15:23-24 - Kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.

Where are you in this story? Where do you want to be?

No room for older brother syndrome in this church or any church.

Titus 3:7

Being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:10 Amplified

so that we would be justified [made free of the guilt of sin] by His [compassionate, undeserved] grace, and that we would be [acknowledged as acceptable to Him and] made heirs of eternal life [actually experiencing it] according to our hope (His guarantee).

Sin Rejected? - Judgment Removed? - Grace Received? - New Life Declared?

Next Steps: "Run to grace while the door is still open—Jesus has already paid the price."

Life Application:

I. Sin Desired — Heart Examination

1. What am I currently desiring more than I desire intimacy with the Father?
2. Am I feeding my flesh more consistently than I am feeding my spirit?
3. What sinful patterns in my life have I justified or ignored?
4. Do I believe sin will satisfy me more than obedience will?

II. Judgment Deserved — Honest Accountability

5. Do I truly believe I will stand before Christ one day and give an account of my life?
6. If Jesus returned today, is there anything I would be ashamed to explain?
7. Is there unconfessed sin in my life right now?
8. When was the last time I genuinely grieved over my sin?

III. Grace Delivered — Gospel Reflection

9. Do I really believe that Jesus fully absorbed the judgment my sin deserved?
10. Am I trying to earn what Christ has already provided?
11. Have I drifted into self-reliance instead of grace dependence?
12. Do I approach God boldly as a forgiven child — or cautiously as if still condemned?

IV. New Life Declared — Obedience & Identity

13. Is my life reflecting the inheritance of a son secure in love?
14. If others observed my life closely, would they see increasing Christlikeness?
15. What step of obedience have I delayed that I need to take today?
16. Am I growing, stagnant, or drifting?

Bonus: If I truly believe judgment was deserved, grace was delivered, and new life was declared — what must change in me today?