

02 | The Great Exchange

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Welcome back, everyone, to the series, Being Right with God. Today, we're going to jump into day two. And today we're going to be talking about something called The Great Exchange, and we're going to go ahead and jump right into it. But before we do ... so, I guess we're not really jumping right into it ... before we go into The Great Exchange, I want to quickly recap what we talked about in our previous message, Good News, Bad News, and I simply just want to bring this phrase back up. The gospel is good news, but it's only good news to those who know the bad news. And we previously talked about how God saved us from hell, eternal torment. The good news is the gospel message that Jesus came down, He died on the cross for my sin, for your sin. And now, because of that, we get to be with Him in eternity, in heaven forever.

And so, today we're going to continue on this topic called The Great Exchange. You're probably sitting there, or you're walking, and you probably think to yourself, "Nicole, what is the great exchange?" And I'm going to simply put it. Normally, I tell you the answer at the end, but I'm feeling generous today, and I'm going to tell you the answer in the beginning! The great exchange is simply this: God exchanged our sin for His righteousness. I'm

going to say this again. God exchanged our sin, our sin--we were born into sin--and He took our sin, exchanged our sin, and gave us His righteousness. And today I'm going to really break this down for us so we can catch a glimpse of what this actually looked like.

So, what's our sin? Where do we start? Well, I think it's probably best to start in the beginning. I want to read to you Genesis 2:8, and then 15-17. So, let me read this: "The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He formed." We know that being Adam. "Then the Lord took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord commanded the man saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die.'" Man, that verse, verse 17, "in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die." Many of us know the story, and if you don't, I'll just briefly share it. We know what took place as we read it, and as we continue to read in Genesis 3, we find out that the very thing God told them not to do, yeah, both Adam and Eve, they did. Lovely! They ate of the very tree that God said for them not to eat. And because of it, here's what happened. Because of it, sin first entered the world sin. And this sin separates us from God. In fact, as soon as Adam ate of the fruit, immediately he was disconnected from God. Immediately he was disconnected from God.

You know, sin separates us from God. That verse that we read that "you shall surely die." You shall surely die. In that day, Adam, spiritually, surely died. He was separated from God. So this exchange, my sin for His righteousness, as soon as this happened, God's plan of action came to be. His plan to save us. We talked about this in Good News, Bad News. His plan to redeem us, to reconcile us back to Himself, was put in play. And I want to read another particular passage in regards to His righteousness. Let me read Romans 5:19-20. This is what it says: "For as by one man's obedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more." Can I just share briefly with you what this scripture means? It says, "for as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners..." Whose disobedience was it, Adam's, right? When Adam ate of the fruit, sin entered, and through his disobedience, all of us were made sinners. But I love how this verse continues. Because just "as by one man's disobedience, many became sinners," the scripture says, "through one Man's obedience, many will be made righteous." Who is this one Man? Jesus. Through the obedience of our Savior, Jesus, Scripture says this, that many will be made righteous. Now, I love that. So what does this mean for us? Because of what Jesus did on the cross, right? Because He died. Because He rose again. Because He took the keys of death. This is what took place. He took sin, our sin, upon Himself--our past, our present, and our future sin. Jesus took it

upon Himself and He's saying this to us, "I will take your sin and I'm going to give you My righteousness."

Righteousness means right standing with God. So, when Father God sees us, He doesn't see our sin. He doesn't see the sin. You know what He sees when He sees us? He sees Jesus. He sees that we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. So, this great exchange is Jesus saying, "I'm going to take your sin. Yeah, I'm going to take that sin. That sin that separated, that sin that destroyed, that sin that kills. I'm going to take that sin." And then He goes, "And I'm going to give you My righteousness. No longer are you a sinner. No longer are you the old you." I love what 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 says: "For the love of God compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died..." And check this out: "...and He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him..." Come on! "...for Him who died for them and rose again." Friends, can I encourage someone that Jesus died for all. Jesus died for all. It's important for us to know this, that Jesus, Him going on the cross is saying this: "I died for all. And because of that, all have died." I love what this says. It says this, that Jesus, He died righteous with the punishment of unrighteousness. He was a righteous man; He didn't sin at all. He lived 33 and a half perfect years. He died righteous with the punishment: our sin of unrighteousness.

Can I ask you a question? Or maybe you want to ask me a question. How then do we receive this great exchange? Well, it's simply two words, or maybe even one word? But it's really by faith. How do we receive the great exchange? It's by faith. You know, I was talking to my friend about this particular subject of the great exchange, and she said something so funny. She goes, "Nicole, you know what this reminds me of?" And she's a shopper. She loves going to the mall. She loves shopping. I don't. And so, I knew it was going south right away. But she said, "You know what this kind of reminds me of?" And I was like, "What does it remind you of?" She's like, "It's like when I go to Nordstrom and I just have the worst shoes, right?" And I don't know if you know this, but Nordstrom has a great exchange policy, and she's like, "It's like, if I go to Nordstrom and I have my beat-up Converse; they're so bad, like, you can't even tell." She's like, "You know what they do? They take my old Converse and they don't just clean them. They don't just make them look new. They take my old Converse and they give me a fresh, new, better pair." And she's like, "And this kind of reminds me of the great exchange." And as silly as it sounds, can I tell you, it's quite true, but way better. Jesus took our old, sinful self, and He's saying, "I'm going to take that sin, I'm going to take that old you, and I'm going to give you My righteousness, something better." And I want to read this scripture because it's by faith, not of works. It's by faith. Romans 4:5 says this: "But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted

for righteousness." Let me read this again. "But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness." Can I tell you, it is by faith. It is by us believing what Jesus did on the cross. That is how we receive this great exchange. That I'm coming to God... Right? We talked about this, and when I confess, I believe in Jesus. And now that I believe in Jesus, I freely receive by faith the gift that He's given me.

I want to read to you just two more scriptures before we wrap up. Ephesians 2:8-9 says this: "For by grace you have been saved through faith..." Oh, I love that! "...through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." You know, salvation is a gift. We're saved by grace, through faith. Let me say this again. We're saved by grace, through faith, not of works. We don't work for it. We can't earn it. We can't work hard enough for it. It is a gift of God. Come on, I am so encouraged by this! I don't have to try to be right with God. I don't have to try to work for my right place with the Lord. No, Jesus is saying this: "No, you've been saved. It is through grace. You have been saved by grace, through faith." And when we believe and when we have faith, can I tell you, that's how this great exchange happens? So what does this mean for you and me? What does this mean for us? Can I tell you? This simply means this. That there's a new us. There's a new you. I don't know if you've heard that phrase, but there's a new you. There's a scripture that's quite

familiar, but 2 Corinthians, 5:17, it says this: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." You know, anyone not born again will not go to heaven. That means if you don't believe in Jesus, if you don't confess, we will not go to heaven. But when we confess Jesus, when we believe in Him as our Lord and Savior, you know what happens? Our Spirit is reborn and we are new. God sees us not as our old self, not as our old fleshly, sinful self. No, but He sees us as new in Him. That's why I love 2 Corinthians 5:17, because it is stating to us this is who we are. If anyone is in Christ, guess what? You're a new creation! The old you. Yeah, that's been gone. The old you, that's passed away. Guess what? Behold, you and I, we've become new. We have been reconciled with God. All things have become new. And guess what, friends? Because of this, we have become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I don't know about you, but this encourages me. I don't know about you, but I'm so thankful for God, that not only does He take our sin, but He completely exchanges. There's no greater exchange. I've gone through so many different stories. There's no greater exchange than this, that Jesus would be willing to take our sin and give us His righteousness.

In closing, can I pray for you? Father, I thank You for Your word today. God, I thank You for the great exchange. God, I thank You that You would take it upon Yourself, Jesus, to take our sin and exchange it with Your righteousness. Lord, we are so thankful for

You, so grateful for You. We love You today.
In Jesus' name we pray, amen.