

Intro: Broken Down Tractors. Locked Up. Found. Salvaged. Restored. "Stoney Ridge Farmer" youtuber. 1957 Massey-Ferguson named "Earl." Worked on 6 months. Up and running again. Working. "Diesel Creek" youtuber. Ford 9N tractor. 1932-42. Working. Rebuilt. Replaced parts. Once broken, damaged, incapable of doing anything were restored and useful once again.

Thesis: "Jesus is a great savior who uses sinners to save sinners"

I. We're All Sinners under the Law (8-11)

- A. **v8 - Law is good if used correctly.** How? 1) Reveals how sinful we are. 2) Restrains sin. 3) Shows us who Jesus is and helps believers grow in Christlikeness.

ILLUSTRATION: The law is a Schoolmaster. The Law is a Mirror/Xray. The law is a Light/Guide. But a lot of people try to use the law to do what it cannot. It can't change people. Irony is, if you try to use the law to change sinners, only makes them more self-righteous. **John Owen.**

- B. **v9-10 -** List of sins. lawless, disobedient, ungodly, sinners, unholy, profane, strike parents, murderers, sexually immoral (*pornos*), homosexuals, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and anything else that is contrary to sound/healthy doctrine.
- C. **v.11 -** What is in accordance with the gospel of the glory of blessed God?

APPLICATION: Do you feel the weight of that? Jesus didn't die for good people. **Jack Miller.**

II. Jesus Uses Sinners (12-13a)

- A. **v.11 -** Entrusted *me* with the gospel! *Me!* Paul! One who once persecuted the gospel.
- B. **v.12 -** By His strength at work in me. Judged me faithful. Appointed me to his service. He gives us the strength for ministry. He qualifies us. He makes us faithful.
- C. **v13a -** I *was* a blasphemer, persecutor an insolent (ignorant) opponent. **Pharisees.**
- D. **v15-16 -** I *am* the chief of sinners. Not "those ppl." Though still a sinner, he uses me.
- E. *Paul really believed he was the worst and that Jesus was using him as an example of his patience, mercy and grace toward other sinners. Example of repentance & faith.*
- F. B/c He was a changed/repenting sinner, not exemplary saint, that He was an example.

ILLUSTRATION: Kintsugi. Broken pottery, "joined with gold", bonded with tree sap: "lifeblood". Painted with gold to highlight the broken/mended places. He makes us beautiful. Useful. Those who have experienced God's grace and see the beauty of the gospel at work in their lives are the ones who God uses to declare and demonstrate the gospel's power. **Francis J. Grimke.**

APPLICATION: Personal Testimony. First qualification for ministry is an awareness of the grace, mercy and of God for sinners, which must be experienced personally.

III. B/c He's Saves & Changes Sinners (13b-17)

- A. **v.13b - BUT...** "I received mercy" (2x; **v.16**). "I was mercied"
- B. **v.14 -** "grace overflowed for *me*" through *faith* and *love* in Jesus.
- C. **v.15a -** trustworthy & deserving full acceptance: this is why Jesus came. Christmas.
- D. **v.15b -** "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." I am the first/chief/worst.

ILLUSTRATION: Personal Pronouns. Caris 2 years old. "Hold you!"/"Hold you-me, Daddy!"

- E. **v.16 -** Eternal Life for all who would/do believe.
- F. **v.17 -** All to the honor & glory of the only God (*What?!*). Praise! Worship! Amen!

ILLUSTRATION: John Newton. Slave Ship Captain. Blasphemer. Abuser. Sexually immoral.

APPLICATION: "When Satan tempts me to despair... Tells me of guilt within...upward I look"

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 1:8-17 **TITLE:** “FAITHFUL: Savior”

John Owen: “some men’s dangerous mistakes, who...have taken upon them to give directions for the mortification of sin, who, being unacquainted with the mystery of the gospel and the efficacy of the death of Christ, have anew imposed the yoke of a self-wrought-out mortification on the necks of their disciples, which neither they nor their forefathers were ever able to bear. A mortification...which constantly produces the deplorable issues of superstition, self-righteousness, and anxiety of conscience...Mortification from a self-strength...[producing] self-righteousness, is the soul and substance of all false religion in the world.”

Jack Miller: “Never again look at your sins apart from Christ. You can’t handle them. You’ll either suppress them and deny that they’re there, or if you see how bad they are, they will overwhelm you. Learn to look at your mistakes, your failings and your transgressions in the light of Jesus’s forgiveness...if you’re forgiven much, you’ll love much. If you’re forgiven little, you’ll love little. If you’re forgiven little you’ll praise little. So be a big sinner and get a big Savior.”

Francis J. Grimke’: “What the world needs is the Gospel of the grace of God in Christ Jesus and that Gospel preached by men who believe and who know from personal experience that it has power to save.”

John Newton (Slave Ship Captain, abuser and trader):

“I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am”

“Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.”

“JOHN NEWTON. Clerk. Once an infidel and libertine a servant of slaves in Africa was by the rich mercy of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST preserved, restored, pardoned and appointed to preach the faith he had long laboured to destroy.”