

# UNSUNG HEROES



**CANCEL CULTURE**

At the heart of cancel culture  
is a prevalence of pride and  
self-righteousness, and an  
absence of mercy and grace.

Jesus showed up in the  
middle of a cancel culture.

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*“Jesus didn’t come for the super spiritual, the all buttoned up, the strong, those who are able to keep it all together, check all the boxes, good at being good types...he came for the weak kneed, the broken, the screwed up, who make a mess of things, who lose their way, and can’t find their way, who aren’t good at being good and are not too proud to accept a handout of grace.”*

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Jesus points the world to a God  
who isn't fair, but rather, to a  
God who is merciful & gracious.

# The Grace of God

God's grace is scandalous.



God's grace isn't fair.

God's grace is without conditions.

“Two other men, both **criminals**,  
were also led out with Jesus to be  
**executed**.”

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**Luke 23:32 NIV**

“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.

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**Luke 23:33 NIV**

Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

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**Luke 23:34 NIV**

The people stood watching, and the rulers even **sneered** at him. They said, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.'

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**Luke 23:35 NIV**

The soldiers also came up and **mocked** him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.'

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**Luke 23:36-37 NIV**

One of the criminals who hung  
there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't  
you the Messiah? **Save yourself  
and us!**'

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**Luke 23:39 NIV**



But the other criminal rebuked him. 'Don't you fear God,' he said, 'since you are under the same sentence?'

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**Luke 23:40 NIV**

We are punished **justly**, for we are getting what our deeds **deserve**. But this man has done **nothing wrong.**'

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**Luke 23:41 NIV**

Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

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**Luke 23:42 NIV**

Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me **in paradise.**'"

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**Luke 23:43 NIV**

**A lifetime of sin is no match  
for a moment of God's grace.**

No sinner and no sin are exempt  
from God's mercy and grace.

The only thing God  
cancels is sin not sinners.

# THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

A Lesson in Humility

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A Lesson in Courage

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A Lesson in Great Faith

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A Lesson in God's Grace



“...**you** were dead in your  
transgressions and sins,

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**Ephesians 2:1 NIV**

But because of his **great love** for us, God, who is **rich in mercy**, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by **grace** you have been saved.

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**Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God— **not by works**, so that no one can boast.”

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**Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV**

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*“Because salvation is by grace through faith, I believe that among the countless number of people standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands (see Revelation 7: 9), I shall see the prostitute from the Kit-Kat Ranch in Carson City, Nevada, who tearfully told me she could find no other employment to support her two-year-old son.*

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*I shall see the woman who had an abortion and is haunted by guilt and remorse but did the best she could faced with grueling alternatives; the businessman besieged with debt who sold his integrity in a series of desperate transactions; the insecure clergyman addicted to being liked, who never challenged his people from the pulpit and longed for unconditional love;*

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*the sexually abused teen molested by his father and is now selling his body on the street, who, as he falls asleep each night after his last “trick,” whispers the name of the unknown God he learned about in Sunday school; the deathbed convert who for decades had his cake and ate it, broke every law of God and man, wallowed in lust, and raped the earth.*

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*“But how?” we ask. Then the voice says, “They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” There they are. There we are—the multitude who so wanted to be faithful, who at times got defeated, soiled by life, and bested by trials, wearing the bloodied garments of life’s tribulations, but through it all clung to the faith.*

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*My friends, if this is not good news to you, you have never understood the gospel of grace.”*

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- Brennan Manning



God's mercy and grace are greater than our greatest sin, our greatest weakness, our greatest struggle, and our greatest failure.