

Chris Murphy
Sept. 8th, 2019
Sermon Title: The Mission of Grace
Scripture: Luke 15: 11-32

Introduction:

My Dad's Story of Grace

My Mom's blessing of grace over me.

My Love for the word Grace

Our shared story- Even led a retreat together

Today's Scripture is a Story of Grace, Best understood as the Gracious Father

Prodigal Son Story: The Gracious Father Story

Three Acts:

Son Leaves Home and dissolute living- He parties hard...

Son Returns Home and is welcome back- Real Party at Home...

Older Brother Rejects his brother and refuses the party...

Chiastic Structure:

(central axis) Luke 15:20, "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him;"

central axis) Luk 15:28b, Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him;

Grace is Amazing- Extends to everyone. Unmerited. Not something we earn by good behavior. It is extended whether we behave well or poorly.

Amazing because we are used to believing you get what you deserve. We like that.... Remember my dad's story. He expected punishment, but received grace and forgiveness.. changed my dad's life.

What's so amazing about grace is that it extends to everyone.

Where do you need grace in your life?

Are you struggling with a bad habit or some unhealthy behavior? Maybe you have an addiction? Maybe you struggle with anger or are having a hard time forgiving someone who has hurt you? Maybe you need grace not because of issues of moral behavior but because you have health concerns. You may need God's grace to comfort you or to heal you emotionally or physically or maybe the grace to accept your limitations.

Are you resisting God's grace? If so, why?

Are you acting like the older brother towards yourself or others? Are you punishing yourself for mistakes you made in the past? Have you forgiven yourself for past sins?

Grace is hard to receive because we get wired to believe that we have to punish ourselves for our mistakes.

The point of this story is that God is always gracious to God's children, the disobedient and the obedient. God loves everyone. Those who are lost and those who are already found.

I don't think grace has any limits. What I mean by that is that God offers grace to all people? Grace is the attitude of the father in this story. Come home to me. I will forgive you. Let me throw you a party. No strings attached. I love you. I forgive you. Come home. Relax. Enjoy!!! It's a win, win. You get forgiveness and you get a party.

Our job as followers of Jesus is to receive grace for ourselves and give grace to others.

We are to search out lost people who need God's grace. This is my way of talking about evangelism.

Some people are struggling out in our world. Some people don't feel a connection to God or were not raised to know God. They might be living a wildlife or maybe they are living fine but are still lost and confused. We have no words of judgment for people who feel lost. We don't tell people they are lost. We can share how Jesus has offered grace to us in our imperfection and need.

God's grace never runs out. We cannot out sin God's grace. God keeps going after people who are lost.

Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save the world.

Let's be like the Gracious Father.

Let's receive grace and give grace.

AMEN