

What does the Bible Say About... Grace?

July 18, 2021

The Question Behind the Question:

- We all feel expectations—from God, others, and ourselves—to _____ and _____.
- We live with the knowledge that we cannot actually _____ those expectations.
- We long for assurance that we can be _____—for God, for others, and for ourselves.

What the Israelites Say:

- God is gracious—he _____ his people with kindness and generosity.
(Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 4:31; Psalm 4:1, 51:1, 17, 57:1, 84:11; Proverbs 3:3-4, 34; Joel 2:13-14; Amos 5:15; Jonah 4:2)

What Jesus Says:

- God's grace should _____ his people to be gracious _____.
(Matthew 4:17, 6:9-15, 10:7-8, 18:32-35; Luke 6:37-38)

What Paul Says:

- God's grace breaks down the _____ and _____ between people.
(Ephesians 2:8-9, 13-16; Galatians 2:15-16, 3:26-29; Romans 3:23-30)

Conclusions:

- God responds to our brokenness and failure with _____ and _____.
- The generosity of God should _____ our other relationships with _____, too.
- The church is called to be a place full of _____—where all are loved and forgiven by God and _____.

Discussion Questions

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- Have you ever received grace in a way that had a big impact on your life? What happened?
- How do you connect with the question behind the question? Do you feel the burden of unmet expectations in your life?

2. Into the Bible (Read Acts 9:36-41)

- This story shows a chain reaction of grace that starts with Tabitha. How is Tabitha generous?
- The church probably didn't call for Peter for everyone who died. Why did they this time? What role might Tabitha's generosity have played in their reaction?

- How does Peter respond when he sees the evidence of Tabitha's generosity? How does God respond to Peter?

- Again, Peter probably didn't try to raise every Christian back to life after they died. Why was Peter confident that God would answer his prayer?

3. Going Deeper

- How does the story of Tabitha show the way grace can spread through a community?
- Imagine a world that was governed completely by God's grace. How would you feel in that world? What would be different?
- What would it look like for our church to be a community transformed by God's grace? What do we need to get there?

