

The High Cost of Salvation

INTRODUCTION

1. Did you know that the Bible never records Jesus using the word “grace”?
 - A. It was used in reference to Him—(Luke 2:40; John 1:14, 16-17), but never used by Him.
 1. “And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”—Luke 2:40
 2. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”—John 1:14
 3. “And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”—John 1:16, 17
2. Now, He taught it; He lived it: He just never said it.
 - A. Then again, He said lot about grace.
 - B. Jesus entire ministry centered on compassion and grace to those who needed it, and to many who didn’t know they needed it.
 - C. In fact several of the parables Jesus told, had grace as their central theme.
3. One of those parables is found it Luke 7:41-42.
 - A. This short concise parable describes the wonderful grace of God more so than all words combined could ever express.
 - B. Both men had a debt they could not pay.
 - C. Yet, both men were forgiven.
4. That’s grace.
5. With our time this morning let’s explore this subject and as we do let us note the pinnacle of all passages concerning grace—Eph. 2:8.
 - A. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...”

BODY

1. SALVATION IS FREE

A. Paul simply says, “For by grace you have been saved...”

1. The two debtors in the parable did not earn their freedom.
2. Their obligation was canceled purely out of a gracious act on the creditor’s part.
3. As someone once said, “Forgiveness is a river that flows out of a spring of grace.” – cf. Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

B. That God can love us in spite of our sins is almost unbelievable.

1. How He can forgive lifelong rebels is unfathomable.

C. Paul continues “...not of yourselves...”

1. Forgiveness is not something we can purchase or earn.
2. We are spiritually bankrupt—we have nothing with which to pay.
3. To show grace is to extend favor to one who doesn’t deserve it and can never pay it back.

A. One said it this way:

1. When we work a forty-hour week and receive a fair week’s pay for our time—that is a wage.
2. When we compete in athletics and receive a trophy for our performance—that is a prize.
3. When we receive recognition for long service or high achievement in business—that is an award.
4. When we are incapable of earning a wage, can win no prize, deserve no award—yet receive a gift anyway—that is grace.

D. Then Paul writes, “...it is the gift of God...”

1. We cannot make salvation works-centered and man-centered.
2. It is grace-centered and God-centered.
3. There is no “do-it-yourself-and-get-the-glory” plan in Christianity.

4. The emphasis is on what God does for us, not what we do for God.
 5. Why, because “grace is what we need, but do not deserve.”
- E. God extending His grace to us is treating us like we never left in the first place.
1. This is exactly what the father did for the lost son in Luke 15:20-24.
 2. As if he never left, he regained his place in the family (ring), his dignity (robe), his freedom (sandals), and his support (fatted calf).

2. SALVATION IS COSTLY

- A. The creditor in the parable took a loss.
1. He paid the debtors debt.
 - A. Salvation is a “gift of God” —a gift that cost Him dearly.
 - B. It cost Jesus His life on the cross; He purchased it “with His own blood.”
 2. No one (when Jesus told the parable) knew how much it cost Jesus to say to the woman, “your sins are forgiven.” — Luke 7:48
- B. Close your eyes for a moment and concentrate:
1. Picture Jesus on the cross with bloody thorns lacerating His scalp, with bruises and swelling on His face.
 2. With cuts so deep on His back that the muscles and tendons are torn to shreds and maybe even bone exposed.
 3. Nails hammered deep into his hands and feet.
 4. Hear His call for water and listen to His agonizing plea: “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
- C. Then think, why is He going through with all this, why is He just hanging there, why is He not calling for the host of heaven to come and deliver Him from Golgotha?
1. Why? Because He told that sinful woman she could be forgiven (and because He promised us, too).
 2. This is the High Cost of Salvation; Salvation is free, but it came at a HIGH COST TO JESUS!

CONCLUSION

1. This morning, I want you to consider the price that was paid for you—Rom. 5:8.
2. I want you to consider whether you are really striving to live a life worthy of that gift, or do you act like it is a common thing (take it for granted)—Heb. 10:29.
3. Be sure to be here next week, as we look at the High Cost of Cheap Grace.
4. “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” —Titus 2:11-14