**GRACE: WHAT IS GIVEN, SHOULD BE GIVEN**

August 14,2016

***Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*** (Matthew 28:18-20)

**EACH ONE REACH ONE**

The classic definition is the best: God’s grace is His unmerited favor. Grace means that God showered favor and blessing on those who did not in any way deserve or earn it. They deserved His judgment and wrath. But He showed them favor.

We are committed and called to help others reach their potential.

* + - * Using our talents, spiritual gifts, and skills.

**GRACE TRAINS US**

***On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”***

***“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”***

***He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.””***

***“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”***

***But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”***

We are going to be called to reach the very people we will not get along with, or maybe the person who had done us wrong, or someone who has hurt us.

* + - * We will face persecution, we will be persecuted.

***You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it. Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.***

(2 Timothy 3:11-12 NLT)

The classic definition is the best: God’s grace is His unmerited favor. Grace means that God showered favor and blessing on those who did not in any way deserve or earn it. They deserved His judgment and wrath. But He showed them favor.

***In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.***

The grace that was and is given to us, now we need to give the same type of grace to others.

* + - * What will that take?
      * Forgiveness, Grace, Love, Obedience, Faith, Trust.

**LIVE IN TRUTH, NOT IN ASSUMPTION**

***But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’***

***“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”***

There can be some predetermining thoughts, assumptions, and MSU’s that we might have about another person. But we know that type of thinking is not TRUTH or FACT.

If you ask for it, God will help you overcome your feelings and do what He asks.

“God is teaching you how to love, how to consider other people’s feelings above your won, and how to sacrifice your emotions so that other people are valued and can see God in you. God is teaching you through these circumstances how to live a crucified life.”

(When you are down to nothing, God is up to something by Bishop Isaiah Reed)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. On your “Campus”, who is your one person God is calling you to reach?
2. Has that person hurt you or wronged you? Is there anything that is stoping you from talking to that person and why?

I predetermine people’s responses, which is assuming and MSU’s. In other words living in the IDEAL circle. And until I actually confront the person or tell them what I need to, or even reach out to them I will live in that MSU forever. The worst thing about it is that, that MSU can evolve into Bitterness or resentment. Anger, Fear, Doubt, and we play right into the enemy’s plan to take us away from our destiny, calling and potential.

***By ending the encounter in this manner, Jesus is telling us to follow the Samaritan’s example in our own conduct; i.e., we are to show compassion and love for those we encounter in our everyday activities. We are to love others (vs. 27) regardless of their race or religion; the criterion is need. If they need and we have the supply, then we are to give generously and freely, without expectation of return. This is an impossible obligation for the lawyer, and for us. We cannot always keep the law because of our human condition; our heart and desires are mostly of self and selfishness. When left to our own, we do the wrong thing, failing to meet the law. We can hope that the lawyer saw this and came to the realization that there was nothing he could do to justify himself, that he needed a personal savior to atone for his lack of ability to save himself from his sins. Thus, the lessons of the Parable of the Good Samaritan are three-fold: (1) we are to set aside our prejudice and show love and compassion for others. (2) Our neighbor is anyone we encounter; we are all creatures of the creator and we are to love all of mankind as Jesus has taught. (3) Keeping the law in its entirety with the intent to save ourselves is an impossible task; we need a savior, and this is Jesus.***

***There is another possible way to interpret the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and that is as a metaphor. In this interpretation the injured man is all men in their fallen condition of sin. The robbers are Satan attacking man with the intent of destroying their relationship with God. The lawyer is mankind without the true understanding of God and His Word. The priest is religion in an apostate condition. The Levite is legalism that instills prejudice into the hearts of believers. The Samaritan is Jesus who provides the way to spiritual health. Although this interpretation teaches good lessons, and the parallels between Jesus and the Samaritan are striking, this understanding draws attention to Jesus that does not appear to be intended in the text. Therefore, we must conclude that* the teaching of the Parable of the Good Samaritan is simply a lesson on what it means to love one’s neighbor.** ([gotquestions.com](http://gotquestions.com))