

## **The Whole Church #25 – Grace #3**

**AT Snacks-- July 21, 2024**

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### **Monday:**

In the church today, they talk a lot about what God used to do, and they talk a lot about what God's going to do, but a kingdom mindset helps you to bring all those things into one picture and think about, see, and experience what God is doing today.

The kingdom is coming in all kinds of ways, but mainly in just your daily life. So, pay attention to what is going on. God is sovereign in relationships and we are all only in the same room because of the sovereignty of God. So, the enemy wants to get between you and me, you and someone else.

Every relationship, given enough time, has problems. And if you've been married for some years, then you've learned to make your relationship more important than the problems. So, if you have a problem with someone, don't bring it to the pastor. You take it to that person and you work through it, if possible.

Here at Trinity Fellowship we are nurturing, loving, training, maturing, and correcting when necessary, so people can be the best version of themselves, as they cooperate with the Lord in this critical season.

I've said over and over again, the most important thing I'm doing in my life right now is listening and spending time with the Father.

### **Tuesday:**

You are not here to just get fed and get fat with what you're fed, and not do anything with that. You're here to be equipped for the work of the ministry. So you have to break through that goofy, dumb Bible Belt mentality that ministry is confined to only a few qualified people.

You have to be looking with kingdom eyes to see what God is doing right now. It's in the little things, and if you can't see and learn to follow and honor God in the little things, you're probably not going to see any big things anytime soon.

Do you want to be as free as Jesus died for you to be? You're not yet, but the more you understand grace, the more you will.

Grace has to be experienced. If you are not experiencing it, you don't have a clue about it.

It's not about all the stuff you know about God. The magic happens in your relationship where you interact with Him. So if you want your life to be all that God has designed for it to be, then pay attention when we're talking about grace.

We are learning to walk this grace thing out in a way where it's real, and genuine, and authentic.

It's really important that we have the language of grace, but more important that our conduct and

behavior match our message.

### **Wednesday:**

As we go along, friends that you have, who go to other churches, might not see grace like you see it. It's going to be really tempting for you to be critical of them. So, your conduct and your conversation and how you interact and relate to them is more important than you taking about grace.

Your best life is lived in a delicate balance between liberty and responsibility. If you've been putting some of this stuff to use, you're not a baby Christian. You're more mature, probably, than you think you are, so don't get high minded about it.

Real grace is when the Lord, in all sincerity, had no good reason to rescue you, but He did it anyway.

If you want to make people mad, preach the law. If you want to make them furious, preach grace.

Here's how I would encourage the grace preachers out there. Your understanding of grace is a gift to be treasured and stewarded with wisdom and maturity. It's not something you've earned or even deserved. It's a gift.

Grace is something that's best understood through experience. Jesus was the best example. He didn't just have a grace message, He **was** the grace message. He embodied the truth He communicated. We should do the same.

### **Thursday:**

You will incur a stricter judgment if you are a teacher. Something to remember! You teach what you know, but you impart what you are. If it's coming from a critical heart, you're producing the same critical heart with others, and that is serious business. Grace has a beautiful message, so don't contaminate it with the wrong heart.

When grace is adequately communicated, very few people reject it.

You have as much faith as the next person, but what you do with it is going to dictate whether your faith grows or whether it lays there dormant.

In 2 Corinthians 12:1-7, Paul was having some third heaven experiences. Because of the greatness of this revelation, he was given a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment Him, to keep him from exalting himself.

The Lord wants me to talk about this, and the reason is to tell you and give you a strong, strong warning and alert you to the fact that you are at risk. You're at great risk for pride. Spiritual pride is taking credit for something that God did. If anything good happened, it happened because God did something and not you. If anything good happens in this house through anything I did, I'm taking absolutely zero credit for it.

## **Friday:**

When you start to see and understand a little bit about grace, you start seeing that God's even better than you thought He was, and you start getting a good opinion of Him when you start experiencing grace.

If you're walking with Him, pay attention, listen to Him and apply this stuff that we talk about around here to your life. It's to prepare you, to get you where you need to be in this season.

He's going to come in the church and through the church before He comes for the church. He's coming back, but He's coming back for a glorious church.

There's no limit to how God will use you, or this house, if we'll do the right thing and not get swept up with pride.

Why would God allow Paul to have that thorn in the flesh? Because his message of grace was so important and it's stood the test of time. That's why we need to talk about it, reflect on it, and discuss it. We need to start understanding grace, because it's the message that God wanted Paul to give.

God allowed Paul to experience this thorn in the flesh. Paul probably had to wrestle with that a lot. He probably asking quite a few times, "*Lord, why am I having to go through this*"? God didn't want Paul's message to be contaminated with pride.

## **Saturday:**

Which is the greatest manifestation of grace? The one who gets healed on the spot, or the one who had from 14 years to the rest of his life of not getting healed, but experiencing the depth of God?

Jesus would say something like this to Paul, "*I love you so much that I can't allow you to fall into the trap, the deceptive trap of pride*". Two scriptures that help drive this home. "*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*". "*Pride goes before deception and a haughty spirit before a fall*".

There are some people who are just along for the ride. That's great, if that's what you want to do--check the box, "*I went to church*". But those kinds of people, a lot of times, will catch a glimpse of truth, and kind of catch a spark of the Holy Spirit. If that's what you want to do, praise the Lord and enjoy.

Some people restrain themselves from giving everything else up for that until they see more evidence. I don't think it works that way. If you are waiting for more evidence, you are going to be on hold, so good luck. But I think you have to give it all up in lieu of what might happen.

That's a hard decision, to give everything else up. It doesn't make any logical sense at all. When you do, you are actually betting your life on it. And that's pretty serious.

The Kingdom is coming, with or without you. The awakening is here. God's calling places like this house to help people wake up.

