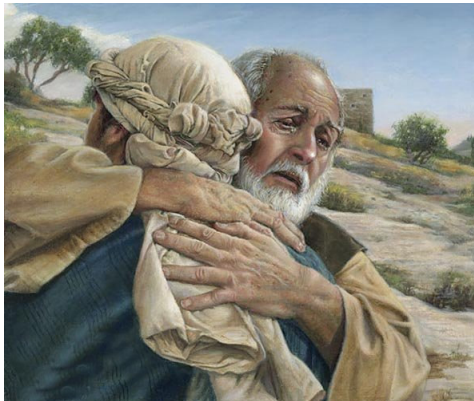


June 25, 2006



What's So Amazing About Grace?

● If you were to ask Christians from all over the world what their all-time favorite hymn would be—what would it be?

● We can't understand grace until we first understand what justice and mercy are.

Justice

■ One sentence definition:

- ◇ Justice is getting precisely what you deserve.

■ God is a just God. 📖 Revelation 15:3

■ Human beings have a little ambivalence about justice.

- ◇ When we're in the wrong we hope there's flexibility in the system.

Mercy

■ What is mercy?

- ◇ Mercy is getting a little less punishment than what you deserve.

■ God is a merciful God. 📖 Psalm 103:8, 10

- ◇ God does not do a one-for-one retribution.

Grace

■ Grace is something completely different!

- ◇ The NT word carries the meaning of a divine gift or favor.
- ◇ Grace is receiving something so wonderful & magnificent beyond what you'd ever imagine, certainly beyond what we deserve.
- ◇ The story of "Bobby".

■ Grace is a risky business.

- ◇ Bobby is either going to be profoundly moved by your act of grace, or he's going to take advantage of it.
- ◇ The story of the prodigal son. 📖 Luke 15:11-32

■ The path to grace.

- ◇ He figured out exactly what he deserved.
- ◇ He hoped for a little mercy.
- ◇ He received grace.

■ Some people will think grace is unfair.

- ◇ Grace is a scandalous thing.

■ What does this mean to me?

- ◇ We need to get clear on exactly what it is that we deserve.
📖 Romans 6:23
The Ten Commandments 📖 Exodus 20:3-17
- ◇ Clarity on what we deserve leads to hope for mercy.
- ◇ With open hands we can receive grace.

Next Week: *Faith & Freedom Sunday!*