

Grace and Faith

January 19, 2020

A Great Team - Sermon Study

1. Read **1Cor 8:2**. How do you think that applies to your **knowledge of grace** and faith? How do you think grace and faith **fit together**? Read **Rom 1:5... Rom 4:16... Rom 5:2... Eph 2:8-10**.
2. What does the **OT point** us to? Read **Luke 24:27... John 5:39... Acts 28:23**. How have you seen **pictures of Jesus** in the OT? Read **1Cor 10:11** and **Col 2:17**.
3. What happens when we **take grace (Sarah)** away from faith (**Abraham**)? Read **Gen 20:2-3**. What was the **result** for Abimelech's household? What does it mean to become **unfruitful**? Why do you think that was so important to God? Is it **still important** to Him today? Explain.
4. What happens when **grace is restored**? Read **Gen 20:7** and **Gen 20:17**. Be sure to read the definition of the word **live (chayah)** in v7. What is the **practical application** of that to your life today?
5. When grace is restored... how does that **affect faith**? When Sarah was returned... how did it affect Abraham? Read **Gen 20:14-18**. What does it mean when God says **grace was vindicated** or cleared?
6. How do you **increase your faith** so more grace comes in your life? Read **Luke 5:15... Luke 6:18... Rom 1:16-17... Rom 10:14-17**. How important is it to you to **keep hearing** messages about Jesus?
7. Read **Phil 3:12-18**. How does that **describe your journey**? How is God revealing new truth to you? What truth have you attained and what does your future look like?

Please read entire passages of scripture to get full context. See sermon notes for more info.

Sermon Notes

A Great Team - Rom 1:5

I. Introduction

- a. one of the things I know about grace is how much I don't know...
1Cor 8:2... "if anyone thinks he knows anything... doesn't yet know..."
- b. what's the common thread... 50's NY Yankees... 70's Steelers... 90's Bulls... 2000's UConn Women's Bball... 2014-18 Warriors... and of course, 2016 Cubs... all were great teams...
- c. sometimes when we get revelation of grace... faith gets tossed out... *don't need faith, I have grace*... not true... grace and faith work best together... they're a great team... not worthy opponents... pray...
Rom 1:5... "grace brings about... the obedience of faith..."
Rom 5:2... "obtained access, by faith... into this grace..."

II. Great Team

- a. OT important... not how to live, but what it points us to...
Luke 24:27... "interpreted things concerning Himself in all Scripture..."
John 5:39... "you search Scripture... it is these that testify about Me..."
Acts 28:23... "persuade them about Jesus from Law and Prophets..."
- b. pictures or examples help us illustrate truth... much of what OT talks about is shadow... not clear, not full reality... pics/types help...
Mark 4:26... "the kingdom of God is *like*..."
Gal 4:21-31... "these are *illustrations*... Hagar is OC... Sarah is NC..."
1Cor 10:11... "these things happened as examples..."
Col 2:17... "rules only shadow of reality... Christ Himself is reality..."
- c. as we study this... Abraham is *type* of faith, Sarah is *type* of grace...
Gal 3:7-14... "those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith... blessing of Abraham would come thru faith..."
Gal 4:21-26... "these two serve as an illustration of God's covenants... Hagar is Mt Sinai in bondage... Sarah is Jerusalem, which is free..."
- d. what is our reality... many treat grace with respect... like family, but as sister... no intimacy there... God wants you close, intimate with grace...
Gen 20:1-2... "Abraham said about his wife... *she is my sister*..."

Grace doesn't spring up like a surprise jack-in-the-box in NT. God's people were prepared for millennia to understand and receive grace of Christ. Bryan Chappell

- e. we respect faith, but *be careful how you preach grace, it leads to sin*...
Rom 6... "sin won't rule... because not under law... but under grace..."
Titus 2... "grace instructs us to deny sin... live righteous and godly..."
Rom 4:16... "promise is by faith... so it may be according to grace..."
Eph 2:8-10... "by grace you are saved, thru faith..."

- f. grace is meant to occupy place of honor... not treated as just one of the other women... what happens when we don't treat grace with honor...
Gen 20:2-3... *"Abimelech has Sarah brought to him... God came in a dream... you're dead man because you've taken another man's wife..."*
- g. Abe lied, Abi innocent... why does God defend Abe... why does He punish Abimelech... because he separated grace from faith...
Gen 15:6... *"Abram believed... God credited it as righteousness..."*
Gen 20:4-6... *"did he not say, she is my sister... done in innocence..."*
- h. church has done same thing... lied to people about grace... *she is our sister*... no intimacy... when grace was taken from faith... entire house became unfruitful (*no results*)... what happens when grace is restored...
Gen 20:7... *"return man's wife... he'll pray for you and you will live... if you do not return her, you and all who are yours will certainly die..."*
chayah... *live prosperously; be restored to life and health...*
Gen 20:17... *"faith prayed... God healed Abimelech, wife, servants..."*
- i. world is dying because grace has been taken from faith... when grace is restored, faith starts to work and prosper... as a team, not enemy...
Gen 20:8-10... *"what have you done to us... no one should do this..."*
Gen 20:14-18... *"Abi gave sheep, cattle, slaves, 1000 pieces of silver to Abe... it is a verification of your honor, reputation cleared..."*
- j. prayers not answered because of actions... prayers answered because you are righteous by faith... can pray before you see personal results...
Gen 20:17... *"Abraham prayed... God healed wombs (then Sarah's)..."*
Job 42:10... *"after Job prayed for his friends... the Lord restored..."*
1Pet 3:12... *"eyes of Lord on righteous... ears open to their requests..."*
- k. grace and faith work together... access more grace by increasing faith... only one way... keep hearing messages about Jesus...
Luke 5, 6... *"came to hear Him and be healed (hear first, then healing)..."*
Rom 1... *"Gospel has power for those who believe... live by faith..."*
Rom 10:14-21... *"how can they believe without hearing... how can they hear without preacher... faith comes by hearing message about Jesus..."*
- l. what if faith can't quite believe grace yet... keep coming and hearing... don't quit or give up... encourage others (**Rom 1:12**)... **pray**...
Phil 3... *"forget past, reach forward... if you think differently, God will reveal this to you... in any case, live up to truth you have attained..."*

Himself

Luke 24:27... *explaining from all the Scriptures about Himself..*

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus had a most profitable journey. Their companion and teacher was the best of tutors, the interpreter one of a thousand, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

The Lord Jesus condescended to become a **preacher of the Gospel**, and He was not ashamed to exercise His calling before an audience of two persons, neither does He now refuse to become the teacher of even one. Let us court the company of so excellent an Instructor, for till He is made unto us wisdom we shall never be wise unto salvation.

This unrivalled tutor used as His class-book the **best of books**. Although able to reveal fresh truth, He preferred to expound the old. He knew by His omniscience what was the **most instructive way of teaching**, and by turning at once to Moses and the prophets, He showed us that the **surest road to wisdom** is not speculation, reasoning, or reading human books, but **meditation upon the Word** of God.

The readiest way to be spiritually rich in heavenly knowledge is to dig in this mine of diamonds, to gather pearls from this heavenly sea. When Jesus Himself sought to enrich others, He wrought in the quarry of Holy Scripture.

The favoured pair were led to consider the **best of subjects**, for **Jesus spake of Jesus**, and expounded the **things concerning Himself**. Here the diamond cut the diamond, and what could be more admirable? The Master of the House unlocked His own doors, conducted the guests to His table, and placed His own dainties upon it. He who hid the treasure in the field Himself guided the searchers to it.

Our Lord would naturally discourse upon the sweetest of topics, and He could find **none sweeter than His own person and work**. With an eye to these we should always search the Word. O for grace to study the bible with Jesus as both our teacher and lesson.

Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening Devotional – January 18th

Understand

Luke 24:45... *He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures...*

He whom we viewed last evening as opening Scripture, we here perceive opening the understanding. In the first work He has many fellow-labourers, but in the second He stands alone. Many can bring the Scriptures to mind, but the **Lord alone can prepare the mind to receive the Scriptures.**

Our Lord Jesus differs from all other teachers. They reach the ear, but **He instructs the heart.** They deal with the outward letters, but **He imparts an inward taste for the truth,** by which we perceive its savour and spirit.

The most unlearned of men become ripe scholars in the school of grace when the Lord Jesus by His Holy Spirit unfolds the mysteries of the kingdom to them, and grants the divine anointing by which they are enabled to behold the invisible.

Happy are we if we have had our understandings cleared and strengthened by the Master! How many men of profound learning are ignorant of eternal things! They know the killing letter of revelation, but its killing spirit they cannot discern. They have a **veil upon their hearts** which the eyes of carnal reason cannot penetrate. **Such was our case** a little time ago. **We who now see were utterly blind.** Truth was to us as beauty in the dark, a thing unnoticed and neglected. Had it not been for the love of Jesus we should have remained to this moment in utter ignorance.

For **without His gracious opening of our understanding,** we could no more have attained to spiritual knowledge than an infant can climb the Pyramids, or an ostrich fly up to the stars.

Jesus' College is the only one in which God's truth can be really learned. Other schools may teach us what is to be believed, but **Christ's alone can show us how to believe it.** Let us sit at the feet of Jesus, and by earnest prayer call in His blessed aid that our dull wits may grow brighter, and our feeble understandings may receive heavenly things.

Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening Devotional – January 19th