

“Grace”

Grace is the most transformational word in Scripture. The entire Bible is a narrative of God’s grace, a story of undeserved redemption. By the transformational power of his grace, God unilaterally reaches down into the muck of this fallen world, through the presence of his Son, and radically transforms his children from what we are (sinners) into what we are becoming by his power (Christ-like). The famous Newton hymn uses the best word possible for that grace, *amazing*. (II Cor. 5: 18-21)

So, grace is a story, and grace is a gift. It is God’s character, and it is your hope. Grace is a transforming tool and a state of *relationship*. Grace is a theology and an invitation. Grace is an experience and a calling. Grace will turn your life upside down while giving you a rest you have never known. Grace will convince you of your unworthiness without ever making you feel unloved. (Heb. 4: 9-16)

Grace will make you acknowledge that you cannot earn God’s favor, and it will remove your fear of not measuring up to his standards. Grace will confront you with the fact that you are much less than you thought you were, even as it assures you that you can be far more than you ever imagined. Grace will put you in your place without putting you down. (Psalms 116: 5-7)

Grace will enable you to face the truths about yourself that you have hesitated to consider, while freeing you from being self-consciously introspective. Grace will confront you with profound weaknesses, and at the same time introduce you to new-found strength. Grace will tell you what you aren’t, while welcoming you to what you can now be. Grace will make you as uncomfortable as you ever have been, while offering you more comfort than you have ever known. Grace will drive you to the end of yourself, while it invites you to fresh starts and new beginnings. Grace will dash your hopes, but never leave you hopeless. Grace will decimate your kingdom as it introduces you to a better King. Grace will expose your blindness as it gives you eyes to see. Grace will make you sadder than you have ever been, while it gives you greater cause for celebration than you have ever known. (Isa. 40: 28-31) (I Cor. 1:25-27...)

Grace enters your life in a moment and will occupy you for eternity. You simply cannot live a productive life in this broken world unless you have a practical grasp of the grace you have been given. (Psalms 84:11-12)

Rom. 1:7 "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"

Conclusion:

In Leviticus 5, there are prescriptions for making confessions and offering sacrifices to God at the tabernacle in order to seek forgiveness for sins, but in verses 11-13 we discover God's equity to all men, V11 says: "if he is not able to bring two turtle doves or two young pigeons, then he who sinned shall bring for his offering one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a sin offering"

A person who knew he could come to God with nothing more than a cupful of flour and a confession of his sin and still receive forgiveness was learning something fundamental about the grace of God...even the most powerful in the land knew God was not impressed by the most lavish sacrifices...

Grace is the key to it all...it's not our lavish good deeds that procure salvation, but God's lavish love and mercy. It is the generosity of God, the freeness of his salvation that lays the foundation for the society of justice for all. God's concern for justice permeated every part of Israel's life. It should also permeate our lives!

William Temple: *"I like to remind myself and others that the only thing you contribute to your Salvation and to your Sanctification is the **SIN** that makes them necessary."*

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