

## **“Undeserveable”**

The Unsettling Truth For Just About Everything, Part 1

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*“People almost invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof, but on the basis of what they find attractive.”* Blaise Pascal, *L’Art de persuader*

In other words, when something is ATTRACTIVE to us, we go looking for reasons to SUBSTANTIATE our belief

Jesus was ATTRACTIVE; people were ATTRACTED to Jesus; EARLY Christianity was attractive

The thing that made early Christianity so attractive is a single word: GRACE

Grace is what we crave most when our guilt is EXPOSED

Grace is what we’re hesitant to EXTEND when confronted with the guilt of OTHERS

Grace is really the UNSETTLING SOLUTION for just about everything

Definition: Grace is UNDESERVED, UNEARNED, UNEARNABLE favor

We can’t recognize or receive for what it is until we’re CONVINCED we don’t DESERVE it

Grace can only be experienced in the context of a RELATIONSHIP where there is an IMBALANCE, and you are on the NEGATIVE side of the ledger because of your BEHAVIOR

This is why GOD had to SHOW up

We would have never known the GRACE of God without the PRESENCE of God

John 1:14 (NIV) “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Jesus was ALL grace and ALL truth ALL the time

John concludes God is love because Jesus was LOVE in a BODY

LOVE is all grace and all truth all the time

Matthew 9:9 (NLT) “As Jesus was walking along, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. ‘Follow Me and be My disciple,’ Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed Him.”

Matthew 9:11 (NIV) “When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’”

Matthew 9:12 (NLT) “When Jesus heard this, He said, ‘Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.’”

Matthew 9:13 (NIV) “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

John 8:10-11 (NIV) “<sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’  
<sup>11</sup> ‘No one, sir,’ she said. ‘Then neither do I condemn you,’ Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’”

It’s GRACE and TRUTH. Jesus says, “You are GUILTY, but I don’t CONDEMN you.”

Jesus engaged people who had **NOT** acknowledged their sin and **INITIATED** a relationship and said, “**FOLLOW** Me.”

Luke 23:39-41 (NIV) “<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: ‘Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ <sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don’t you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.’”

The criminal who rebuked the one insulting Jesus knew if Kingdom of Heaven is reserved for good, righteous, people who get it right every time, he had no **HOPE** and no **CHANCE**

Luke 23:42 (NIV) “Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’”

Luke 23:43 (NIV) “Jesus answered him, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise.’”

Why? Because like life, grace is not **FAIR** – it better than fair, it’s unsettlingly better than fair

Jesus knew that God’s justice would **CRUSH** us

Romans 3:23 (NLT) “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”

Every sin has a **GOTCHA**; Jesus came to **GETCHA**

Luke 16:16 (NLT) [Jesus said] “Until John the Baptist, the law of Moses and the messages of the prophets were your guides. But now the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is eager to get in.”

The “Good News” is embodied in a person, **JESUS**; the “Good News” can be summarized in a word, **GRACE**

### **My Next Step Today Is:**

- ☐ I have struggled with accepting God’s grace in my life and in dealing with others. I will review my message notes and ask God to help me work through these issues as I learn about His grace more.
- ☐ I want to meet some other people and learn more about a growing relationship with Jesus. I am interested in participating in a 4 week “Circle Up” group.

Join us again next week as we continue our new message series:

**“The Unsettling Solution for Just About Everything” – (part 2) “Don’t Do the Math!”**

Invite a friend to join you!