

to the battle and those who guard the equipment. (25) From then on David made this a decree and regulations for Israel, and it is still followed today.

III. GRACE CHALLENGES OUR SENSE OF SERVICE/WORKS

We are prone to think that we have too little while others have too much of God's favor; and that we do too much, and others too little in the work of God.

Luke 15:11-32 CEV - (28) The older brother got so angry that he would not even go into the house. His father came out and begged him to go in. (29) But he said to his father, "For years I have worked for you like a slave and have always obeyed you. But you have never even given me a little goat, so that I could give a dinner for my friends. (30) This other son of yours wasted your money on prostitutes. And now that he has come home, you ordered the best calf to be killed for a feast." (31) His father replied, "My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. (32) But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead, but he is now alive. He was lost and has now been found."

The older brother's attitude: I've worked hard, been a good boy, done what I've been told, walked the straight line...and this younger brother who has been rebellious and done his own thing receives favor and blessings.

We have to stop comparing our lives with those of others because whatever God does to us or does not do – He does no wrong, no injustice, no unkindness.

Have you been scandalized by God's grace?

GOD'S GRACE

Part 4: Scandalous Grace

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REVIEW

I. GRACE-TRANSFORMATION -POSSIBLE

The Gospel of Grace has the power to transform our very nature, because it is completely dependent on God's ability.

II. GRACE-TOTAL ACCEPTANCE

Our righteousness comes from God alone-faith in the finished work of Christ. We need to become persuaded that we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

III. GRACE-OUR TRAINER

Grace trains us to renounce ungodliness by resisting desire's temptation and overcoming sin's pleasure. Grace trains us to live spiritually whole lives through repentance, entering into the rest of God and focusing on Him.

INTRODUCTION

Matthew 20:1-16 NAS (1) For the Kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. (2) And when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. (3) And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place; (4) and to those he said, You too go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you. And so they went. (5) Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing. (6) And about

the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing; and he said to them, Why have you been standing here idle all day long? (7) They said to him, Because no one hired us. He said to them, You too go into the vineyard. (8) And when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last group to the first. (9) And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius. (10) And when those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more; and they also received each one a denarius. (11) And when they received it, they grumbled at the landowner, (12) saying, These last men have worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day. (13) But he answered and said to one of them, Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? (14) Take what is yours and go your way, but I wish to give to this last man the same as you. (15) Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous? (16) Thus the last shall be first, and the first last.

I. GRACE CHALLENGES OUR SENSE OF POSITION

The workers were depending upon their position of being first to give them greater favor.

Our perceived position makes no difference because God shows no partiality.

There is no first, there is no last. The first and last doesn't matter anymore in the Kingdom of God.

Galatians 3:28-29 AMP – (28) There is now no distinction neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (29) And if you belong to Christ, are in Him Who is Abraham's Seed, then you are Abraham's offspring and spiritual heirs according to promise.

Colossians 3:11 AMP – In this new creation all distinctions vanish. There is no room for and there can be neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, nor difference between nations whether barbarians or Scythians, who are the most savage of all, nor slave or free man: but Christ is all and in all, everything and everywhere, to all men, without distinction of person.

The privileges and the promises of grace are dispensed to all according to God's design, sovereignty and will not according to our position, or how much we have accomplished.

II. GRACE CHALLENGES OUR SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT

I Samuel 30:21-25 NLT – (21) Then David returned to the brook Besor and met up with the 200 men who had been left behind because they were too exhausted to go with him. (They went out to meet David and his men, and David greeted them joyfully. (22) But some evil troublemakers among David's men said, They didn't go with us, so they can't have any of the plunder we recovered. Give them their wives and children, and tell them to be gone. (23) But David said, No, my brothers! Don't be selfish with what the Lord has given us. He has kept us safe and helped us defeat the band of raiders that attacked us. (24) Who will listen when you talk like this? We share and share alike- those who go