



Part Two // Scott Landry // December 10, 2023

Have you ever put “limit” on how much you and other family members were going to spend on each other at Christmas? On one hand, we want to keep each other from unnecessary financial stress. On the other hand, deeper than that, there is sense in which we don’t want there to be in imbalance in what one gets over another.

Scripture: John 1:14, Matthew 20:1-15

Bottom Line: Grace is the undeserved, unearned, unearnable favor that Jesus came to offer us.

Getting Started:

1. It’s game night. You and your friends are laughing, competing, and having fun. And then...somebody breaks the rules and changes the course of the game. What’s your knee-jerk reaction?
 - i. The Judge: “The rules of the game clearly state this. There’s really no gray area here.”
 - ii. The Peacemaker: “It’s fine. I know some people play that way. It’ll work out.”
 - iii. The Eye Roller: “Ugh. If I lose because of this, I’m going to be really annoyed.”
2. Has there ever been a moment when you knew you messed up and hoped someone would treat you like it never happened? Has anyone ever asked for that kind of grace from you? Why is it so challenging for us to give that kind of grace?

Diving In:

Read Luke 19:1-7

3. What do you think were the mix of emotions Zacchaeus felt when Jesus picked him out of the crowd?
4. What does the muttering of the crowd show about our natural response to grace?
5. What do you think the disciples learned about Jesus that day? Is there something here that you can learn about Jesus?

Read Matthew 20:1-15

6. When Jesus told a parable, he was challenging his listeners to look for God and to look for themselves. In this parable of the landowner, find you. Which group or character do you identify with most?
7. Now find God. What does the parable show us about his kingdom? Why is what we find so challenging?
8. Jesus invites us to see the world and our Father differently. We value fairness. But grace is better than fair. Have you had a more difficult time giving grace, receiving grace, or admitting you need grace? Why?
9. Take time as a group to discuss the words of this prayer and what they mean for each of you. Then pray together and thank God for his unfair, yet amazing grace.

Heavenly Father, I fall short every day.
I need what I don't deserve— to be
forgiven of my sin and restored to
you.

I believe Jesus' death on my behalf accomplished both.
I place my faith in him as my Savior and Lord.

Moving Forward:

From our perspective, the Kingdom of God will always appear upside down. We naturally compare ourselves to standards, but grace doesn't compare. Grace is married to truth and the truth is that we all fall short of God's standard. This week write: "**GRACE > FAIR**" somewhere you'll see it to remind you of what Jesus came to do for you—and for everyone you meet.