

Mercy and Grace of God

Mercy of God – God’s goodness confronting human misery and guilt (not getting what you deserve)

Key verses:

- Rom 4:8 - Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.
- 2 Cor 5:19 - that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.
- Eph 2:4-5 - But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions

Pivotal thoughts from the book:

1. It is an attribute of God, infinite and inexhaustible that compels him to be actively compassionate (KOH*, pg. 90)
2. The divine mercy is not a temporary mood of God, but a divine attribute that will never cease to be (KOH*, pg.91)
3. We will not experience the joy of mercy until we truly believe that we can and have obtained it. “This is to starve to death outside the banquet hall in which we have been warmly invited. Or we may, if we will, lay hold on the mercy of God by faith, enter the hall and sit down with the bold and avid souls who will not allow diffidence (lack of self-confidence) and unbelief to keep them from the feast of fat things prepared for them.” (KOH*, pg. 92)

Grace of God – God’s goodness directed towards human debt and demerit (getting what you don’t deserve)

Key verses:

- Eph 1:5-8 - he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding..
- Eph 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.
- Rom 3:23-24 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus

Pivotal thoughts from the book:

1. The Channel through which grace flows out to men is Jesus Christ (KOH*, pg. 93)

2. Grace is an attribute of his holy being. He can no more hide his grace than the sun can hide it's brightness (KOH*, pg.95)
3. Grace did not wait for Christ's birth and death before it became operative. Christ is the lamb slain from the beginning of the world. (KOH*, pg.95)
4. To abound in sin is the worst and most we can do as finite beings. However, since our sin is finite, it does have measurable boundaries. God's grace, on the other hand, has no limits because it is infinite. So for us to think that we could ever do anything that could eclipse the grace of God is complete foolishness... it is a logical impossibility.

* KOH = Knowledge of the Holy

Forgiveness

Forward: these notes on forgiveness were taken directly from Ryan Kubicina's notes in the School of Leaders last year. They are both potent and pertinent, which is why I decided to use them in their entirety with no modifications. Please give a round of applause for Ryan's insights 😊

Key verses:

- Luke 11:4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
- Col.3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
- Mt.6:15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Introduction: In scripture, we find that forgiveness is not an option but a command. Those who live under the grace and lordship of Jesus Christ live yielded lives in response to His mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment! (James2:13) Resentment and bitterness become defiling roots that not only destroy ourselves, but others as well. (Heb.12:15)

What total forgiveness looks like those who have sinned against us: Taken from the life of Joseph

- **Do not let anyone know what someone said about you or did to you.** Joseph commanded everyone out of the chamber when he revealed that he was their brother. Nobody in Egypt needed to know what happened 22 years ago.
- **Do not allow anyone to be afraid of you or intimidated by you.** Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers with tears and compassion. "Perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment"-1Jn4:18 Joseph responds to their fear by "Come close to me"
- **We will want them to forgive themselves and not feel guilty.** Joseph guarded his brothers from a guilt trip. "And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here...It was to save lives that God had me ahead of you" (Gen.45:5) Joseph knew that "all things work for good to those who love God" (Rms.8:28) Joseph could therefore celebrate God's purposes more than man's mistakes.
- **We will let them save face.** "So then it was not you who sent me here, but God."(Gen.45:8) Joseph not only preserved his brothers dignity and self-esteem, but enabled them to see what

they did was “good rather than bad.” God knew that there would be a famine in the land, and that the people of Israel had to be preserved. So Joseph tells his brothers that God chose him to up ahead to preserve the family. God meant it for good!

- **We will protect them from their greatest fear.** Joseph knew the dread and guilt his brothers were going through having to tell their father the truth of the blood stained coat of many colors. For years their worst nightmare had been that their father would find out about their deception. Knowing this, Joseph instructed his brothers to tell their father the truth—that he was alive and well and had become prime minister of Egypt. He told them what to say, and what not to say! (Gen.45:9-13)
- **It is a lifelong commitment.** 17 years after being re-united with Joseph, Jacob Dies. “When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, what if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?”(Gen.50:15-17) When Joseph heard this he reassured them of God’s goodness and his personal commitment to them. (Gen.50:19-21)