

The Bridge of Grace

August 21, 2016

Pastor Craig Watson Kalamazoo Free Methodist Church

~ Matthew 18:21-35 ~

What's the purpose of this story?

- It is a concrete example of the _____ of God.

What is grace?

- A benefit – an _____ – a gift beyond our doing or control
- As Jesus' parable shows, there is an _____ grace that *we* offer to others...

1. _____ the Grace

- In Matthew 18, Jesus compares _____ nature with _____ nature.
 - _____ is important
 - _____ is important
- Matthew 18:21-35
 - You and I are the _____ in this story & God is the _____.
 - Romans 3:22-24
 - We *must* see this grace – this undeserved forgiveness – before it can ever have its desired effect in us.

2. _____ the Grace

- The servant in the parable apparently received the king's _____, but not *grace*... there was no apparent influence on his _____.
- “Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” ~ Hebrews 4:16
 - We're to _____ the grace of our Heavenly Father, not manufacture our own.
 - *You* may not be able to _____, but in *His* grace, He can _____ through you...
 - Unless we _____ and _____ God's grace, we will not experience the healing our hearts crave.

3. _____ in Grace

- “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.” ~ I Peter 4:10
 - In the context of this passage, Peter means _____ gift, including the gift of forgiveness!
- “Come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” ~ Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

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~ Matthew 18:21-35 ~

What's the purpose of this story?

- It is a concrete example of the grace of God.

What is grace?

- A benefit – an unmerited favor – a gift beyond our doing or control
- As Jesus' parable shows, there is an active grace that *we* offer to others...

1. Seeing the Grace

- In Matthew 18, Jesus compares divine nature with human nature.
 - Who is important
 - What is important
- Matthew 18:21-35
 - You and I are the man in this story & God is the king.
 - Romans 3:22-24
 - We *must* see this grace – this undeserved forgiveness – before it can ever have its desired effect in us.

2. Receiving the Grace

- The servant in the parable apparently received the king's mercy, but not *grace*... there was no apparent influence on his heart.
- “Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” ~ Hebrews 4:16
 - We're to reflect the grace of our Heavenly Father, not manufacture our own.
 - You may not be able to forgive, but in *His* grace, He can forgive through you...
 - Unless we see and receive God's grace, we will not experience the healing our hearts crave.

3. Growing in Grace

- “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.” ~ I Peter 4:10
 - In the context of this passage, Peter means every gift, including the gift of forgiveness!
- “Come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” ~ Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)