

Jesus & You, Jesus and Peter, part III:

GRACE

09/20/2020 Sermon

1. Read Luke 22:31-34.

- a. Grace is sufficient. 2 Corinthians 12:9. Do you think that your shortcomings exclude you from being used by God?
- b. When God called you, He already factored in your weaknesses, potential mistakes, and sinful nature, and yet He still chose to work through you. God wants to use you.
- c. Jesus knew that Peter would fail, but he prayed for him. He also told him that when he had turned back/repented, to strengthen his brothers.

2. Read Mark 14:32-42.

- a. Grace holds (us) accountable. Hebrews 4:12-13. Some people think grace means that there are no repercussions for our actions or that they can “do whatever they want” because there’s grace. God says that we will be held accountable for our actions, and even the intentions of our hearts.
- b. When Jesus’s three closest disciples fell asleep on him, Jesus took Peter to task for it. Even though Jesus has immense grace for us, he still has expectations of his followers.
- c. Do you hold yourself and/or others accountable to God’s word the way Jesus did/does with his disciples?

3. Read John 18:10-12

- a. Grace means humbly relying on God.
- b. How often do we try to take matters in our own hands? How often do we go to worldly solutions first before spiritual ones? Do you live by the mantra “the end justifies the means”?
- c. Jesus rebuked Peter for trying to defend him with violence. Peter cut off the high priest’s servant’s ear (Luke 22 tells us that Jesus healed the man’s ear, talk about grace!). We fight with the armor of God (Ephesians 6), not the weapons of the world.

4. Read Luke 22:54-62

- a. Grace is there for our lowest moments.
- b. “Like a good Savior, his grace is there!” Peter denied Jesus in a horrendous way, to the point that he was calling down curses on himself. Jesus turned and looked right at Peter after his third denial, and this led Peter to go outside and weep bitterly.
- c. Whatever your lowest moment has been, (whether before or after baptism), God’s grace is big enough to cover it. That’s what his grace is for. Let go of the shame and guilt of that situation and give it to God if you haven’t already. If Peter can come back from this moment, and end up preaching the first gospel sermon and being one of the leading apostles, whatever sin and wickedness there is in your past, then God can absolutely still bless you and use you.

5. Read John 21:1-22

- a. Grace leads to repentance and restoration. The first part of this story is very reminiscent of the calling of the first disciples. This is intentional. Jesus wanted to remind them of when they first decided to follow him. Check out the chart below for parallels:

	LUKE 5	JOHN 21
SEA OF GALILEE	Lake of Gennesaret	Sea of Tiberias
	Worked all night and caught nothing	Worked all night and caught nothing
	Cast your net into deep water	Cast your net on the right side of the boat
	A great number of fish	Large number of fish (153)
	Nets began to tear	Nets didn’t tear
Exclamation	Away from me, Lord...(Peter)	It is the Lord! (John)

- b. Titus 2 teaches us that God’s grace teaches us to say NO to ungodliness and worldliness. How does God’s grace motivate you to take up your cross daily? How does the cross inspire you to live for Jesus?

c. Peter had denied Jesus 3 times, so Jesus asks Peter 3 times “Do you love me...?” Jesus wanted to restore their relationship. He also took Peter back to the command to FOLLOW him. What about you? Are you following Jesus and taking care of his sheep/lambs?