



Grace Given to Sinners - Devotional for September 20, 2020



Read John 21:12–17



What? Describe what happened in the story in your own words.



So what? What does this passage mean to you in your own life?



Now what? What are you going to do differently because of this passage?

So we just finished talking about God’s mercy and how wonderful it is that the Lord chooses to not hold our sins over our heads. But God is so kind to not *just* be merciful to us. He gives us something called grace. I’m sure if you’ve lived on this planet long enough, you’ve heard that word before. We sometimes confuse mercy with grace, but grace is actually something different. Grace isn’t God pitying us because of our faults. Grace is you receiving the power to do what God has called you to do. Think about it ... why would the Bible say that Jesus was “a man full of grace” if He never sinned? Grace must mean something more.

After Jesus rises from the dead, he meets up with his disciples and has breakfast with them. One disciple (Peter) had denied that he knew Jesus when Jesus was being taken away to be crucified. Peter was beating himself up over how he thought he would never deny Jesus ... until he did. Jesus makes it a point to bring Peter back to the basics of what it means to follow in His footsteps. He asks Peter, “Do you love me?” And Peter answers truthfully, “Yes.” And then, Jesus gives Peter the calling to “feed my sheep.” Jesus wasn’t just telling Peter to “prove” his devotion. He was re-identifying Peter as someone who follows God. Jesus was re-identifying Peter as someone that He trusted enough to be called on assignment for God.

Maybe no one’s told you this before, but God trusts you with assignments on His behalf. And along with that trust, God gives you the grace (the empowerment) to follow through. Even when you mess up, Jesus makes it a point to remind you who you are and whose strength you have.

Study Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three times?

2. What other Bible stories come to mind when Jesus gives grace to people who probably didn’t deserve it?

Application Questions:

1. What areas of your life have you denied Jesus access to?

2. What steps can you take to accept the grace that Jesus has offered you?
