



Lesson 82 **Grace Abounds**

March 28, 2012

03/25/12 MEETING: PRESENT – I AM, Bob and Cindy

CT – Grace abounds, Praise God for His grace given. Don't interject self into what the Lord gives. Remove self. See as He sees. Feel as He feels. This should be your goal. Does self love the way the Lord loves? Does self sacrifice as God sacrificed? Self gets in the way of progress, keep growing and keep progressing. You have made great strides but there is still more to do. Keep working at it. I am proud of you. My grace is sufficient to cover all needs. Jesus is grace in action, a demonstration of my commitment to meet your needs. He paid the price for you. Yes, My grace is sufficient to cover all needs.

This week the Lord spoke of grace again. We have studied grace previously in lessons 62 and 59. We learned that the definition of grace basically is this: unmerited divine assistance given for regeneration or sanctification; 2) approval, favor; mercy, pardon; a special favor: privilege; disposition to or an act or instance of kindness, courtesy or clemency; a temporary exemption: reprieve.

Several other definitions of grace are: unmerited love given freely; the favor of God, a state of reconciliation to God. Another definition I heard was when I'm given everything and don't deserve anything. This week, however, we will be learning more about God's grace through several stories found in the bible.

Remove Self

First, I want to begin with a story from the book of Exodus:

Exodus 19: 1-6 *In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain. And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, **if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people** for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."*

Following this the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain.

Exodus 24:17-18 *The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.*

While Moses was on the mountain the Lord proceeded to give him the law. The Lord spoke of all manner of laws and commandments, He instituted Feasts, He gave instructions for the Tabernacle and all therein. Everything from the priests garments to how the tabernacle should be laid out. And He also re-emphasized the importance of the Sabbath.

However, when the people saw that Moses had been up there for a pretty good amount of time. They grew impatient and disobedient. They allowed self in. They talked Aaron into making them a god. So Aaron took their gold and fashioned a gold calf.

At first glance we are amazed by the Israelites impatience and lack of faith. After all, the Lord had delivered them from Egypt. He had performed great miracles in everyone's site. He had delivered the Israelites from death by having them place blood over their doors. Their obedience to the Lord had protected them from what came. But in spite of all they had witnessed, in spite of all they had experienced, the Israelites still allowed self to enter into the picture. They had even just witnessed the glory of the Lord upon the mountain but they still made a calf, proclaimed a feast and rose up to eat, drink and play.

Exodus 32:7-9 *And the Lord said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people who you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'" And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!"*

Moses was so angry when he went down the mountain that he threw and shattered the two tablets the Lord had made. He melted the golden calf and made the Israelites drink of it. Moses basically drew a line in the sand stating "Whoever is on the Lord's side come to me!" The sons of Levi came to him and the Lord instructed them to put on swords and approximately three thousand men of the people fell that day.

Moses had to make atonement for those remaining so he returned to the mountain. The Lord's anger was evident against the Israelites. Moses had to plea with the Lord for them. He reminded the Lord of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. And the Lord relented.

It is at this point that the Lord has Moses make two new tablets and He renews His covenant with the Israelites.

Exodus 34:5-10 *Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "**The LORD The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.**" So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.*

*Then he said, "**If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance.**" And He said, "**Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.**"*

The Lord was merciful and gracious to the Israelites. He gave them an **act of kindness, courtesy and clemency, a reprieve**. They had interjected themselves (self) into what was happening at that moment. This week the Lord said, **Don't interject self into what the Lord gives**. And He taught us, **Self gets in the way of progress, keep growing and keep progressing**. We cannot make significant progress in the Lord when we are not willing to patiently await the Lord's direction or follow after what He has given.

Therefore, we must ask ourselves, how many times have we been like the Israelites and lacked patience? How many times have we ignored what the Lord has given?

The Lord provided the Israelites with a demonstration of His power and protections. Their obedience protected them as death passed over. He instituted Passover as a feast, a holy convocation and as a remembrance of these protections.

He taught us this in regards to Passover:

04/26/08 CT – **Passover not only symbolic of Jesus but also symbolic of end time protections for those who are obedient to the Lord. Last plague prevented by blood over door. End time "plague" protection; similar/like putting blood over door. This is the reason for remembering and celebrating Passover. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.**

Yes, the Lord is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He was gracious to the Israelites, relenting from His wrath. He likewise is gracious to us. His **Grace abounds, Praise God for His grace given**. He wants to provide us with the same protections. We just have to be obedient unto the Lord and **Don't interject self into what the Lord gives. Remove self**.

See as He Sees

The Lord tells us the story of Job in the book named after him. This is the second story we will look at. Job was blameless and upright. He feared God and shunned evil. He was the wealthiest man in the east. The Lord uses this book of Job to help teach us about protections.

From THH <http://www.takehisheart.com/tithegivegod.htm>

Job worked righteousness and feared God. Contrary to some teachings, **Job did nothing wrong** to have the hedge lifted from around him. **God lifted the hedge around Job for a purpose**. It was so we could see a picture of the **mechanics of the legal system** in Heaven.

Satan is the accuser of the brethren. He accuses you before God, the Judge. Jesus is your advocate, or defender. You'll probably say, "Great! Jesus is my lawyer, how could I lose?" The problem with thinking this way is this: **God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus work only with truth**. They will not lie, connive, use any sleight of hand at your trial on your behalf. Understand, **truth** is what is known in heaven and truth is what it functions on. Having said these things, let's look into the book of Job to see some facts about Satan.

Job 1:6,7

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Please notice the next thing that happens, God mentions Job to Satan. **Satan did not come to the meeting to accuse Job before God!** He had been going to and fro in the earth and he couldn't attack Job because of God's hedge **and He knew it!** **One** thing we must understand is that Satan is not dumb and would not mention Job to God. He knew he wouldn't win the case; he wouldn't waste his time.

Job 1:8

And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Because God had now opened the door to Satan, in the next verses we see Satan seize the opportunity to accuse Job of something not proven - **All in the plan of God, all done for His purposes.**

Job 1:9-11

Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

We know that Satan was released to attack Job and we can see his works of killing, stealing, and destroying. The point is that Satan was going to and fro in the earth and we know he knew Job was God's man because of his reply to God in verses 9-11, **but the point is, he hadn't been able to touch Him.**

What did Job have that Christians don't have today?

Job knew what working righteousness was! In Chapter 29 Job is speaking of what he had done in the past.

Job 29:12-17

Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out. And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

Doing all of this had produced a hedge around Job.

Job had followed after the principles written of in the Mechanics of Tithing. He was a righteous man. Job's friends, however, saw all that had happened to him and they believed that he must have sin in his life. He must be a sinner and a hypocrite. Job, however, declared his uprightness, his integrity, mercy, and his innocence all the while speaking bitterly.

It is at this point that a young man named Elihu spoke up. Elihu helped to bring Job's center of attention back on God.

Job 33:12-17 *"But in this, you are wrong; I will answer you: God is greater than any mortal. Why do you strive against him? He will not defend his words—God speaks once, even twice,*

and still the hearer misses the point. In a dream, in a vision at night, when slumber falls upon people, as they sleep in their beds, he opens people's ears and seals the matter with a warning, to turn a person away from his action and protect a man from pride, so that he will keep himself away from the pit and from perishing by the sword. CJB

Elihu was explaining that God doesn't have to defend His words. He speaks to guide and protect. He will tell us once and twice through dreams and visions. He will even give us signs and angels. He will do all these things to guide and protect us. His words do not have to be defended.

Elihu goes on to explain that God is gracious. He keeps working with us. He doesn't want to give up on us.

Job 33:29-30 *God will accomplish all these things twice, even three times, with a man, to bring him back from the pit, so that he can enjoy the light of living. CJB*

Elihu implies that we should not be speaking bitterly or making assumptions because God will not act wickedly or pervert justice. He reminds Job that it is God who gives us the breath of life.

Job 34:10-15 *"So listen to me, you men with sense! Far be it from God to do anything wicked! For he pays people back for what they do and sees that each gets what his conduct deserves. It is certain that God does nothing wicked; Shaddai will not pervert justice. Did someone else put him in charge of the earth? Who else established the entire world? If he were to take back man's heart to himself, if he gathered to himself his spirit and breath; all flesh would instantly perish, everyone would return to dust. CJB*

Elihu helped Job have the right focus. He was helping to prepare Job for God's (harsh) response. When the Lord spoke to Job He asked him many questions like this:

Job 38:4-5 *"Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. Do you know who determined its dimensions..."*

Job 38:16 *"Have you gone down to the springs of the sea or explored the limits of the deep?"*

Job 38:41 *"Who provides food for the raven when his young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?" CJB*

The Lord went on to ask many more questions about nature and God's creations but then He said,

Job 40:2 *"Does the critic still want to dispute Shaddai? Let him who wants to correct God give an answer!" CJB*

At which point Job says,

Job 40:4-5 *"I am too ashamed; I have nothing to say. I lay my hand over my mouth. Yes, I spoke once, but I won't answer more; all right, twice, but I won't go on." CJB*

And the Lord continued,

Job 40:7-8 *"Stand up like a man, and brace yourself; I will ask questions; and you, give the answers! Are you impugning my justice? Putting me in the wrong to prove yourself right? CJB*

Finally, after the Lord completed expressing His thoughts by having asked many more questions, Job made this statement:

Job 42:2-6 *"I know that you can do everything, that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. [You asked,] 'Who is this, hiding counsel, without having knowledge?' Yes, I spoke, without understanding, of wonders far beyond me, which I didn't know. "Please listen, and I will speak. [You said,] 'I will ask questions; and you, give me answers'—I had heard about you with my ears, but **now my eye sees you**; therefore I detest [myself] and repent in dust and ashes."*
CJB

Like Job God is telling us that we need to have the right focus also. Elihu spoke of the righteousness of God. Job came to have a deeper understanding of the Lord through all that had happened. He came to the place where he could say, **now my eye sees you**.

This week the Lord encouraged us in like manner when He said, **See as He sees. Feel as He feels. This should be your goal**. We should continually be seeking a deeper understanding of the Lord, seeing as He sees and feeling as He feels. This should be our goal.

Grace in Action

We spoke earlier of the message we received in April of 2008 that explained that Passover is symbolic for several messages from the Lord. First, it is a reminder of the Lord delivering the Egyptians. Second, it is symbolic of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and finally, it is symbolic of end times protection. Right now, I want to speak of God's grace through Jesus. And His grace is clearly seen in these next verses:

John 3:14-17 *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved."*

Romans 3:21-24 *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **being justified freely by His grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

Ephesians 2:8-10 ***For by grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

This week the Lord said, **My grace is sufficient to cover all needs**. Jesus is grace in action, a demonstration of my commitment to meet your needs. He paid the price for you. Yes, **My grace is sufficient to cover all needs**. These words together with the verses above give a clear demonstration of the Lord's commitment to us. Jesus followed after the Father's will. He was obedient unto death in order that we may be saved. Our part is very simple from THH <http://www.takehisheart.com/salvationconfessionstraitgate.htm#What>

Paul says in Romans 10:9, *That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved.* Paul teaches here that we need to establish who Jesus "is" in our confession/declaration to another person, and while doing this, believing in our heart that God raised Him from the dead.

You may ask: What is in a true confession of our faith to another person? *In other words what are you acknowledging or stating when you make your true confession?*

No. 1 You are admitting who God is, who Jesus is, and who you are.

No. 2 You are revealing your faith in a God you cannot see.

No. 3 You are admitting there are no works you can do; only Jesus' blood covers sin.

No. 4 You are admitting your sinful state.

No. 5 You are admitting everything God ever did and said is true.

No. 6 Your inability's are in that profession.

No. 7 Repentance is in that profession.

No. 8 Submission is in that profession.

No. 9 The revealing of everything you are now and everything you will be is in that profession.

No. 10 A positive drive is in that profession.

Jesus' commitment to us, His grace in action, most definitely fits the definition of grace given above that states that grace is unmerited love given freely; the favor of God, a state of reconciliation to God. As the verses above revealed, our reconciliation to God comes directly through our belief in His Son and our confession of faith in Him.

Jesus is grace in action, a demonstration of my commitment to meet your needs.

Summation

In this lesson we learned that the Israelites allowed self to take their focus away from the Lord. They thought they had the answer. Likewise, we cannot escape the realization that we do the same. We allow self to take our focus from the Lord. In many instances we think we know what's best. The Lord, however, wants us to search the truth and answer these questions:

Does self love the way the Lord loves?

Does self sacrifice as God sacrificed?

Job, like the Israelites, lost his focus for a while. However, he came to have a deeper understanding of the Lord through all he experienced. He came to the place where he could say, ***now my eye sees you.***

We may think that we know what will bring us the greatest happiness but the Lord assures us that: **Self** (following after our own pleasures and desires) **gets in the way of** (the true) **progress** that only comes from God. Only the Lord understands what will truly bring us happiness and joy. These blessings come through His grace (**when I'm given everything and don't deserve anything**).

We also learned in this lesson of Elihu. Elihu was the young man who spoke to Job after Job's three friends were finished. He taught us that the Lord speaks to us in many different ways so *that he (man) can enjoy the light of living*.

Elihu also taught us that even though we slip up at times, the Lord will keep working with us. This likewise is another example of the Lord's grace.

Let's close by reviewing the words the Lord gave one more time:

CT – Grace abounds, Praise God for His grace given. Don't interject self into what the Lord gives. Remove self. See as He sees. Feel as He feels. This should be your goal. Does self love the way the Lord loves? Does self sacrifice as God sacrificed? Self gets in the way of progress, keep growing and keep progressing. You have made great strides but there is still more to do. Keep working at it. I am proud of you. My grace is sufficient to cover all needs. Jesus is grace in action, a demonstration of my commitment to meet your needs. He paid the price for you. Yes, My grace is sufficient to cover all needs.
Don't allow self to take you focus away from the Lord or stall your progress. And remember God grace abounds! Praise Him for His grace given!

May the Lord Bless and Keep You,
Cindy

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