



THE HUNT FOR HIS GRACE

27 April 2025

Summary:

This Message explores the concept of God's grace, challenging the common misconception of faith as a ladder we climb to reach God. Instead, it emphasizes that Jesus descends to meet us where we are, offering unmerited grace. The message encourages believers to embrace this grace, live in holiness, and understand that our relationship with God is not based on our works but on His unconditional love and mercy.

Key Points:

- Our faith is grace-based, not works-based
- Holiness should be our goal, but it's not a means to earn God's love
- God's grace is freely given, not earned
- We should be open to receiving God's grace
- The sacraments (for Catholics) are tools for holy living and receiving grace
- Grace is not just forgiveness, but also restoration and purpose

Scripture Reference:

- Philippians 2:13
- Luke 15:11-32 (Parable of the Prodigal Son)
- Psalm 18 (brief mention)

Stories:

- The story of Jonah and his mission to Nineveh
- The Parable of the Prodigal Son, with cultural context about the father's running.
- Personal anecdote about forgetting husband's birthday and receiving grace
- Analogy of grace as a waterfall we step under

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (For Individual or Group Reflection)

How does the concept of grace as presented in the Message challenge or affirm your understanding of your relationship with God?

In what ways might you be trying to 'climb the ladder' to reach God instead of accepting His grace?

How does the story of Jonah reflect God's grace in your own life, particularly in times when you've run from God's calling?

In what areas of your life do you find it most difficult to accept God's grace, and why?

How can viewing grace as 'stepping under a waterfall' change your approach to spiritual practices and sacraments?

What does it mean to you personally that 'grace is a person, and grace is Jesus'?

How might understanding grace as God's initiative rather than our effort change the way you approach your faith journey?

How can the concept of God 'outrunning shame' impact the way you view your own shortcomings and failures?

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a prayer asking God to open hearts and minds to understand His grace more deeply. Pray the Impacters prayer together as a group.

Key Takeaways:

1. Our faith is grace-based, not works-based.
2. God reaches down to us through Jesus, rather than us climbing up to Him.
3. Holiness should still be our goal, even though we're saved by grace.
4. Grace is unearned, undeserved, and unending love and favor from God.
5. We need to be open to receiving God's grace and letting it change how we see ourselves.

Discussion Questions:

1. The Message talked about our relationship with God as a ladder. How does this image change when we consider grace instead of works? How does this shift your perspective on your relationship with God?
2. Reflect on the story of Jonah. How does God's grace show up in Jonah's life? Can you think of a time when you've experienced similar grace in your own life?
3. The sermon mentioned three aspects of holy living: relationship with God, obedience over convenience, and accessing God's daily strength. Which of these do you find most challenging and why?
4. How does the parable of the Prodigal Son illustrate God's grace? What strikes you most about the father's response in this story?
5. Bridgette mentioned that sometimes we don't feel like we receive grace because we don't believe we're worthy of it. Have you ever felt this way? How can we overcome this mindset?
6. Discuss the concept of grace as a "waterfall" that's constantly flowing. How can we position ourselves to receive this grace more fully in our daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, try to identify moments when you're tempted to "climb the ladder" to earn God's approval. Instead, pause and remind yourself of God's freely given grace.
2. Create your own set of scripture cards like the speaker mentioned. Choose verses that remind you of God's grace and love.

3. Practice asking for God's grace daily this week. Keep a journal of how this changes your perspective or actions.
4. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be holding onto shame or guilt. Spend time in prayer, asking God to cover these areas with His grace.
5. Look for an opportunity to extend grace to someone else this week, especially in a situation where it feels undeserved.

Closing Prayer:

Close by thanking God for His abundant grace and asking for help to live in the reality of that grace daily.