

Grace Paradigm

Parables of Jesus

Ben Deaver at Tallgrass at The Well on August 7, 2022

Luke 7:36-50

So what? The grace paradigm is completely countercultural. We have our work cut out for us!

Feel what? The grace of Jesus.

Now what? Live out of the grace paradigm.

VISION CASTING – Jesus lavished His grace on you. Feel it, and live out of it!

INTRODUCTION

Mingle Questions:

1. What's the best piece of advice your parents gave you?
2. Star Wars or Star Trek?

Parables of Jesus

- I like to practice handwriting the passage double-spaced in an effort to slow down.
- The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- The Great Commandment – Matthew 22:37-40 ³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”
- Paul’s Vision Statement – Colossians 1:28-29 ²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

PRAY

Pray as you go questions from yesterday

- First, quickly remember one time that you've felt close to God this week, and give thanks for it.
- Now let the last few days play themselves out again before your mind's eye. What have been the highs, and what have been the lows?
- Speak to God of all that you've remembered here. As you do so, become more aware of where and how God has been alongside you in all this.
- Finally, look forward to the next few days. Where you'll be, and what you will be doing. In the light of what this prayer has shown you, what would you most want to ask God for as you move forward?

"Father, we want to gather around to hear Jesus. We want ears to hear and hearts to receive and courage to live out of grace. Amen."

Luke 7:36-50

V. 36 ³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

- Tension mounts by what DIDN'T happen. Common courtesy omitted
- The right way to welcome found in Genesis 18:1-8 when the LORD appeared to Abraham and Abraham welcomed Him.
- Nonetheless, Jesus reclines at table.
- Ever notice that Jesus is always looking for the opportunity to rest or take a nap?! In the boat. In the wilderness. At Simon's house. Jesus' just chillin'.

V. 37 ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.

- The plot thickens when this "sinful" woman enters the home.
- "sinful life" is typically short-hand for prostitution
- She's likely crying because of how Jesus is being publicly shamed.
- She walked into the room a forgiven woman. We learn this later.

V. 38 ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

- Such an intimate interaction, especially in their culture. But can you even imagine this happening in *our* culture?
- Crying because Jesus has been shamed publicly.

V. 39 ³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”

Jewish View of Women

- This Pharisee, who we learn is named Simon, was one of those who excelled in religious school. He knew his Bible really well, at least the Old Testament since the New Testament wasn't written yet.
- **John 8:5-6** ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

- **Sirach 42:12-14** (Ben Sirach was a Jewish scribe who wrote 200 years before Jesus' ministry; 180-175 BCE)
Do not sit down with the women;
for moth comes out of clothes,
and a woman's spite out of a woman,
A man's spite is preferable to a woman's kindness;
Women give rise to shame and reproach.
- The woman kept getting close to Jesus despite those around Him.

V. 40 ⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

Vv. 41-42 ⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

- Simple yet profound.
- A denarius was worth one day's skilled labor. One owed a year and a half of wages and the other a month and a half.

V. 43 ⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

- Does Simon see his own debt? Beware if you can't see how messed up you are.
- Sometimes Maris, my wife of almost 17 years, is trying to help me see how egregious my behavior is and I'm like, "I just can't see it!" That's a scary spot to be. The more I realize how messed up I am, the more impactful the faithfulness of my wife to me will be, and the more I will respond in love that moves me to change.

Vv. 44-47 ⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

- NIV (2011) "...as her great love has shown/demonstrated."
 - ESV "...for she loved much."
 - Old NIV (1984) "...for she loved much."
 - Revised NIV for the win!

Deeper Dive on Simon

- Simon had opportunities to get grace in the Old Testament.
- **Hosea 6:6** For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.
 - Hosea was called to marry a "sinful woman" as a demonstration of God's lavished grace towards His people.
 - **Matthew 9:11-13** ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this (Jesus hanging with the tax collectors and sinners), they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

- “Simon, I am a Middle Easterner and you are a Middle Easterner. I do not have to explain to you your duty to your guest. You have called me ‘Teacher (Rabbi).’ At your invitation I have entered your house and become your guest. You refuse to notice this woman whom you see as no more than a ‘sinner’ and you expect me to do the same. But, can’t you see Simon, that she is making up for your inexcusable failures as a host, and if I am to avoid sinners then I will be obliged to avoid you?” – Kenneth Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*, p. 256
- **Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Ephesians 1:7-8a** ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ^{8a} that he lavished on us.

Response to Forgiveness

- “The woman does not utter a single word, yet Jesus commends the power of her faith! What is the content of the wordless faith that he perceives and praises? With Paul, faith for Jesus is composed of (1) intellectual assent, (2) a daily walk of trust, and (3) a response in obedience. Biblical faith is never merely something we think; it is also something we do. She says nothing, but acts in confirmation of her confidence that he is the appropriate recipient of her thanks for forgiveness received.” –Kenneth Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*, p. 258

Grace Paradigm Explained

Paraphrased from *Walking in Victory* by Dennis McCallum

Area	Law Paradigm	Grace Paradigm
View of Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A set of detailed obligations I must keep to be “ok” with God • Initiates rule keeping • Rules are the goal • Careful obedience to God's law often serves as a strategy for rebelling against God. –Tim Keller on Facebook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underlying principles of God’s design for human flourishing towards which He is moving me • Responds to forgiveness • Relationships are the goal

View of Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can do it on my own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can't do it on my own but can experience significant change • "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action. Grace, you know, does not just have to do with forgiveness of sins alone." –Dallas Willard
Key to Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-discipline • Specific experiences or knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with the Spirit • Process, not quick fixes
Mental Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty; just try harder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification with Christ
Reaction to Failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surprised & distressed • Rationalization, minimization, blame-shifting • Vows to do better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not surprised (It's actually much worse than you realize) • Confident of God's acceptance • Return to active dependence
Reaction to Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proud and intolerant of others (You keep a spiritual discipline for 24 hours...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humbly grateful • Able to empathize with those who are failing • Sees continued need for growth

<p>Eventual Result</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External conformity, but increasing internal defeat and hypocrisy (dead men's bones) • Growing cynicism and despair OR self-righteous externalistic comparisons – self-deception • Dead end 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradual transformation into a person with a measure of victory over sin and a spiritual mind-set (the mind of Christ) • A more loving person • No limit to growth in maturity
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Vv. 48-50 ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

- Not a pain and trauma competition
- Difficulty reading the Scriptures after it's been weaponized
- "Go in peace." Go, live an integrated life. Go, live out shalom.

RESPONSE & ACTION

"An emotionally healthy disciple slows down to be *with Jesus*, goes beneath the surface of their life to be deeply transformed *by Jesus*, and offers their life as a gift to the world *for Jesus*." –Peter Scazzero, *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship: Moving from Shallow Christianity to Deep Transformation*, p. 26

Grace Paradigm Embraced

Paraphrased from Chapter 3: Be Before You Do (Mark #1) in *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship*, p. 49

1. Make a radical decision.

- She went all in on Jesus. She broke open her alabaster jar. That's it. That's all she had.
- It's like the widow's mite...
- Baptism!

2. Feel your feelings.

- She wept over Jesus.
- Which will love more?! You've got to feel the forgiveness in order to love in response.

3. Integrate silence.

- You get the sense that this woman could sit at the feet of Jesus in silence and be completely happy.
- Luke 10 story

4. Commune with Jesus throughout the day.

- One of the reasons this is so difficult for us is because we are not physically present with Jesus.

INSPIRATION

Jesus' View of Women

- **Luke 8:1-3** After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.
- Jesus had disciples who were women.
 - **Luke 10:38-39** ³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.
 - **Matthew 12:49** Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers.
- Do you see yourself in Jesus' entourage of messed up people who are being transformed by His lavished grace?

Invite the Worship Team up

CONCLUSION—REFLECT & REPENT

1. Remember a moment when you've been hit by your need for grace.
2. Remember a moment you've experienced grace.
3. What do you most want to ask God for as you move forward? Ask Him.

PRAY

"Father, we've gathered around to hear Jesus. We want ears to hear and hearts to receive and courage to live out of grace. Jesus, we love You. For all that you've done, we will pour out our love. This will be our anthem song, Lord Jesus. Our affection, our devotion. Poured out on Your feet. Amen."

Chopping Block:

Notes:

- Likely given to Luke in written form during his sojourn with the apostolic community in Jerusalem (AD 56-68).
 - Luke 1:2 "eyewitnesses"
 - Acts 21:1-18 "we"
- "Much of discipleship in the church today is the spiritual equivalent of cladding. On the surface, everything looks like the real thing. Our people are upbeat and optimistic..." –Peter Scazzero, *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship: Moving from Shallow Christianity to Deep Transformation*, p. xvi
- Deconstruction and Reconstruction
- Lectio Divina
- Refined sins
- Hidden sin
- Grace paradigm - no limit to loving response; so powerful
- Jesus' loving kindness powerfully changed lives
- Mercy and Grace
 - Mercy is not receiving what you should.
 - Grace is receiving what you shouldn't.
 - Grace = God's riches at Christ's expense
- Grace vs. Law
 - <https://dwellcc.org/learning/essays/two-perspectives-under-law-vs-under-grace>
- Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?
- Rise & Fall episode
- Blessed to be a blessing, not hoard blessing
 - Isaac & Ismael example
- Get in touch with your level of indebtedness so you're equipped to love deeply.
- The Left focuses on systems of oppression and the power of sin over society whereas the Right focuses on personal guilt and the penalty of sin for individuals. Jesus addresses both!
 - Freedom from the penalty of sin immediately and the power of sin over time through sanctification and eventually from the presence of sin in eternity!
- We're good at sinning, God is good at forgiving. What a match!
- Initial interest in Jesus is great! But not enough. Bring your curiosity and questions, but then let Jesus impact you.
- Simon is named. The woman is not. Simon means "listen" or "hearing."
- 6/13/19 dream

- Triclinium – u-shaped dining couch
- Our common welcome into our American homes
- Rabbinic literature – “If one partakes of a meal at which a scholar is present it is as if he feasted on the effulgence of the Divine Presence.”
- “I see that I am not welcome here!”
 - Holy Spirit, You are welcome here!

Jesus, We Love You

Old things have passed away
 Your love has stayed the same
 Your constant grace remains the cornerstone
 Things that we thought were dead
 Are breathing in life again
 You cause your Son to shine on darkest nights
 For all that You've done, we will pour out our love
 This will be our anthem song
 Jesus, we love You
 Oh, how we love You
 You are the one our hearts adore
 The hopeless have found their hope
 The orphans now have a home
 All that was lost has found its place in You
 You lift our weary head
 You make us strong instead
 You took these rags and made us beautiful

Illustrations:

- The pack rat is back! Sometimes the fixes you try cause greater problems. Compare to legalism.

Passages:

- **John 12:1-8** Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ “Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.” ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she

should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

- **Mark 14:3-11** ³ While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. ⁴ Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? ⁵ It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly. ⁶ “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸ She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” ¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹ They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.
- **James 2:14-26** ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. ²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.
- **Romans 4:2-3** ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”
- **Proverbs 7:10** Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.
- **Proverbs 23:26-28** ²⁶ My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways, ²⁷ for an adulterous woman is a deep pit, and a wayward wife is a narrow well. ²⁸ Like a bandit she lies in wait and multiplies the unfaithful among men.