

Is Grace Still Amazing

Word

Scripture Reference

John 13:21-30

Discussion Questions

1. Grace is defined as “getting what you do not deserve.” Have you ever-experienced someone else’s grace? What difference did it make to your life?
2. Read John 13:21-30. This passage follows the wonderful story of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples and tells us of one of Jesus’s disciples who experienced amazing grace. But instead of being grateful, this disciple had the reverse reaction. As Jesus and His disciples were getting ready to observe the Passover meal, a puzzling conversation took place. Why was Jesus troubled in verse 21? How would you feel if someone close to you betrays you? What are some of the reasons why people would betray the trust of friends or loved ones?
3. The announcement that one of their very own would actually betray their Master must have struck the disciples like a thunderbolt (v. 22). Discuss how Judas Iscariot, who had listened to the gracious teachings of Jesus and shared the closeness of the group of disciples, could turn and betray his Master? How do Christians betray Jesus in words or by their way of life? Are you sometimes tempted to betray Jesus? Why?
4. As the disciples were wondering who among them would be the one to betray Jesus (v. 23-26), Jesus identifies His betrayer by giving the piece of bread that he had dipped to Judas. Despite the fact that Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him, He was still very gracious towards him until the end. The Lord Jesus extended three acts of grace to Judas:

- a. **Jesus gave Judas a special privilege.** Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, including Judas. This act of humility spoke of Jesus’ love for him, opening up an opportunity for Judas to repent. Why do you think he didn’t repent? Discuss why most of the time, you may find it hard to admit a sin, say sorry for it, and turn away from it?
 - b. **Jesus gave Judas a special position.** In Jesus’ day, the practice was to recline as they ate. They would recline on their left elbow and use their right hand to eat. Judas was obviously close enough to Jesus to talk intimately to him. It is likely that Judas was reclined to the left of our Lord. That place on the left of the host was considered to be the place of highest honor, reserved for the most intimate friend. This was the position that Judas occupied at the Last Supper. Give examples of how people are seemingly close to God and yet, their actions betray their inner standing with God. How could this be dealt with?
 - c. **Jesus gave Judas a special portion.** For the host of the meal to offer a guest a special portion from the dish was a sign of special friendship and affection. Every possible opportunity was given to Judas to turn from his wicked plan. Also, the giving of the bread was an honor, and to receive it was to make a pledge of loyalty. Did Judas receive the bread? Did his acceptance of the bread turn him around? What happened to him then (v. 27)? How does Satan progressively influence and control a Christian (How does Satan use a carefully designed suggestion to sin to completely control someone)?
5. No one among the disciples knew why Jesus said what he did in verses 28-30. What did they think Jesus meant when He said, “*What you do, do quickly.*” Discuss why no one among the disciples suspected Judas of wrongdoing? What is the reason why it could be concluded that Judas was never a believer? Is it really possible for a person to claim that he is a Christian when the truth is he is simply masking his hypocrisy from his closest friends and loved ones? Why is the attitude and mindset of Judas toward grace sad, dangerous and deadly?

Walk

All of us are recipients of God's grace. However, we can respond like Judas--be a hypocrite, reject grace, and show contempt for the Giver; or we can receive His grace with gratitude, which will draw us closer in intimacy and devotion to our Lord. Grace is also indeed amazing to us when we lead others to Christ. What attitude or behavior would you ask God to change because it betrays your relationship with our Lord Jesus? Would you claim His grace so that you can lead someone to Him?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, Your grace is indeed amazing. There is no way I can earn your love and favor on my own. But you have extended your grace to me, getting what I do not deserve. Thank you that it is only through Your grace that I am your precious child through Jesus Christ. And because of it, I am loved and favored. Help me to be loyal to you - that I will not betray your Lordship in my life in my words and my actions. May You use me as an instrument of Your amazing grace to bless others and to lead them to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.