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Sermon: Gift of Grace

Text: 1 Peter 4:10

INTRODUCTION

1 Peter 4:10

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.”

1. It is God's grace. He is the source.
2. Everyone is given at least one gift. Many receive more.
3. Everyone is to serve faithfully administering God's grace in various ways.

Grace comes to us in 2 dimensions – vertical and horizontal.

1. Vertical Grace centres upon our personal relationship with God. Vertical grace flows generously and freely from Father God.

Grace gives hope to everyone, extends the gift of eternal life to all who will receive it.

Ephesians 2:8-9

v8 - *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*

v9- *not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

2. Horizontal grace centres on our human relationships, relationships with one another.
God's Word has clear instructions on relationships.

The call this morning “Be A Gracious Christian in Calvary and in your Community.”

The opportunity to share the Bible is limited, but you and I are walking Bibles, disciples of Jesus everywhere by demonstrating the grace of God.

By our lives ... people can be impacted.

How can we respond graciously to life's demands?

How do we relate graciously to each other?

Who can we learn from?

Jesus ... He is our example.

... He is our enabler.

John 1:14

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Luke 2:40

“And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.”

The Gospels reveal to us Jesus graciousness towards people and situations**1. Grace in family relationships*****Jesus in the temple with His parents- Luke 2:41-52**

After the feast of the Passover, Jesus decided to stay back to be among the teachers, to listen, ask questions as well as participate in their discussions. The key to young Jesus graciousness is found in his conversation with his mother, Mary.

Luke 2:48-51

v48 *When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."*

v49 *"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"*

v50 *But they did not understand what he was saying to them.*

v51 *Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.*

***Jesus at a wedding in Cana with His mother – John 2:1-11**

Jesus graciously attended the wedding with His mother Mary. They ran out of wine. Mother made a request to her son. Jesus graciously turned the water into wine. He rose to the occasion because he was gracious. The first miracle was performed to save somebody from embarrassment.

Gracious people are helpful, redemptive people.

Some people have the gift of making a bad situation worse.

Gracious people turn a bad situation into good.

Graceful people are lifting people.

2. Grace in relating to a family crisis – John 11:21, 32**John 11:21**

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

John 11:32

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died, my brother would not have died."

Both sisters said the same thing, *"Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*

This was a strong accusation. This is not the way to speak to the Master. Jesus refused to be offended.

Gracious people are not easily offended or distracted.
They have a purpose and live and act according to their purpose.
 Blame and offense are destructive to human relationships.

3. Grace in relating to the woman caught in adultery – John 8:3-11

The Pharisees and teachers of the law brought this woman to Jesus and said that according to the Law of Moses, “Stone her.”

Jesus said, “*He that is without sin, let him cast the first stone.*” (John 8:7)

Nor condemning nor comprising
 “*Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.*” (John 8:11)

4. Grace to children – Matt. 19:13

“*Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.*”

Children were brought to Jesus ... the disciples rebuked the others and children...
 Jesus said, “Let them come to me ... He laid hands and prayed.

Grace sees the insignificant ... significant.
 Grace sees everyone important.

5. Grace on the Cross

Jesus last words – full of grace in spite of intense suffering and pain.

To the criminal: “*... to-day you will be with me in Paradise.*” (Luke 23:43)

To his torturers: “*Father forgive them for they do not know what they do.*”
 (Luke 23:34)

To Mary his mother: Turning to John, He said to His mother
 “*Woman, behold your son!*” (John 19:26)

CONCLUSION

Be gracious ... Follow the example of our Saviour and Lord.

Be gracious ... Jesus enable us to be gracious.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

v7- *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

v8- *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*