



Grace is Greater Than My Relational Garbage

Pastor Doug Heisel – April 23, 2017

Luke 22:59-62 — About an hour later, another man insisted, “Certainly this man was with Him, for he too is a Galilean.” “Man, I do not know what you are talking about,” Peter replied.

While he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. **And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.**

John 21:1-19 — (After His resurrection...) Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. ... Then the one who Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" At that, Simon Peter ... jumped into the water [and swam ashore].

The rest of us stayed in the boat and pulled the loaded net to the beach, about 300 feet away. When we got there, we saw that a fire was kindled and fish were frying over it, and there was bread.

"Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus said. So Simon Peter went out and dragged the net over. By his count there were 153 large fish; and yet the net hadn't torn. "Now come and have some breakfast!" ... **Then Jesus went around serving us the bread and fish.**

...After breakfast Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes," Peter replied, "you know I love you." **"Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him.**

Grace is greater than ...

RESENTMENT

BITTERNESS

INSECURITY

So we praise God for the
glorious grace He has poured out on us
who belong to His dear Son.
He is so rich in kindness and grace
that He purchased our freedom
with the blood of His Son
and forgave our sins.
He has showered His kindness on us,
along with all wisdom and understanding.
Ephesians 1:6-8

1. Grace enables me to overlook an **OFFENSE**.

A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.
Proverbs 19:11

2. Grace enables me to stand on a platform of perpetual **FORGIVENESS**.

- Forgiveness is not a **BURDEN** God lays on you,
but a **GIFT** God makes available to you!
- Unforgiveness at its root is **UNBELIEF** in the power and scope of the cross!
Forgiven people **FORGIVE**.
- Forgiveness is not a **ONE-TIME** event, but a
new **STATE OF BEING**.

See to it that no one falls short of the **grace of God**
and that no bitter root grows up
to cause trouble and defile many.
Hebrews 12:15

3. Grace enables me to overcome **EVIL**
with **GOOD**.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21



Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: Today is about the power of grace to improve all our relationships. Have you had someone model healthy relational grace to you? Explain.

DIGGING IN: Read Luke 22:59-62 and John 21:1-19. How would most people react to the kind of rejection and betrayal that Jesus experienced, by those closest to Him? How did Jesus respond?

1. It's easy to think that only Jesus can act like Jesus. But we are told that the same mighty power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us (Ephesians 1:19-20). Moreover, God has poured out His grace and kindness on us. Read Ephesians chapter 1 and highlight all the various blessings we now have in Christ.
2. Read Proverbs 19:11. We can overlook an offense, or we can look it over and over and over. If you began to really believe that God's grace can enable you to overlook things that previously stirred up negative emotions in you, in what practical ways would this improve your relationships?
2. Read Hebrews 12:15, along with point #2, and the three sub-points in these notes. Which stands out most to you and why?

BRINGING IT HOME: We are Overcomers in Christ. Take the truth and power of this lesson into all the negative places of your life. Let the power of God's love and grace bring greater health and wholeness to you, and others around you!
Grace is greater!