



Grace

Completely Foreign

*John 1:14; Matthew 9:11–13;
Luke 16:16; 23:32–33, 35, 39–43*

The Bottom Line: Grace is undeserved, unearned, unearnable favor.

Welcome Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:8

Introduction:

Why doesn't everyone want Christianity to be true?

“People almost invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof, but on the basis of what they find attractive.” —Blaise Pascal, *L'Art de persuader*

What makes Christianity so attractive? GRACE

Grace is what we crave most when our guilt is exposed.

Grace is what we're hesitant to extend when confronted with the guilt of others.

On the receiving end, grace is refreshing.

When it's required, grace is disturbing.

You can't recognize or receive grace for what it is until you're convinced you don't deserve it, and it can only be experienced in the context of a relationship where there is an imbalance.

This is what makes Christianity unique and attractive, and this is why God had to show up in person.

We would have never known the grace of God without the presence of God.

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.**”

*Jesus was **all** grace and **all** truth **all** the time.*

Read: Matthew 9:11-13

Tension:

Jesus was not afraid to call a sinner a sinner, and Jesus was not afraid to go to their house for dinner.

With the woman caught in adultery, Jesus said, *you are guilty, but I don't condemn you. Now, leave your life of sin.*

This upsets everything because we think it must be one way or the other, but Jesus came, and it was *both and*.

Truth:

Here's the story that put the "amazing" in grace: Luke 23:32-43.

GRACE IS NOT FAIR!

Grace is way better than fair, disturbingly better!

Conclusion:

When grace is on display, people will want it to be true before they believe it's true.

Read: Luke 16:16

The good news was embodied in a person: Jesus.

The good news can be summarized in a word: Grace.

Application:

Grace is an invitation, an invitation to you like Jesus' invitation to Matthew: "I know all about you, the good, the bad, and the ugly. Now, follow me, anyway."

"I'll lead you away from your sin, and no, I haven't forgotten what you've done. It's better than that, way better than that. I remember all of it, and I love you anyway. Now follow me."

Now, follow Jesus!

Next Steps:

- Memorize John 1:14.
- Follow Jesus.

Discussion questions for group this week:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?

4. If I could ask a question about this it would be....