

Pastor Ron Case
6/30/19

“Perplexing Grace”

Joseph (Part 10)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Rigorous Reckoning

Genesis 42:18-23 – (18) “On the third day Joseph said to them, ‘Do this and you will live, for I fear God: (19) if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, (20) and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die.’ And they did so. (21) Then they said to one another, ‘In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.’ (22) And Reuben answered them, ‘Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.’ (23) They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them.”

Safe Space of Grace

Genesis 42:24 – “Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.”

Grace upon Grace

Genesis 42:25-28 – (25) “And Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man’s money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them. (26) Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed. (27) And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack. (28) He said to his brothers, ‘My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!’ At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, ‘What is this that God has done to us?’”

Genesis 42:35 – “As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man’s bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid.”

Though Difficult, Receive the Grace of God by Faith

What is My View of God?

Harsh Master

“But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’” (Luke 19:20-21 NLT)

Helpful, Compassionate Lord

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men.”

(Lamentations 3:21-23, 31-33)

What is My View My Heavenly Father?

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.” (Luke 15:17-20)

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(ESV used unless otherwise noted)