

Remnant Life Church  
Sunday, February 21, 2016  
**Grace Abounding – Pt 1**  
John 4:4-10

Grace (def) - the unmerited favor of God toward man

- The term is used as a description of the whole of God's love (justified)
- Also His favor and love in specific events (sanctified)
- It gives us hope and assurance that we can and will be saved

The single greatest act of God's grace was the sending of His Son to die for our sins on the cross

- *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)*

His grace then continues for us through the course of our lives

- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

**READ – John 4:4-10**

Some of you may be familiar with the “Rules of Three” from which a human can survive:

1. 3 minutes without air
  2. 3 hours without warmth in severe, extreme cold
  3. 3 weeks without food (?)
  4. 3 days without water
- Today, the bottled water industry is worth approximately 4 billion dollars annually
  - We read today that Jesus was tired and thirsty
  - He stopped in Samaria in the town of Sychar and He speaks with a Samaritan woman
  - What we will see from this seemingly minor encounter is that God's grace breaks down barriers
  - There are a number of aspects in this account that we must examine if we are to understand what it is that Jesus was doing in breaking down 2 barriers that are still present today
  - Jesus spent His life in the land area called Palestine; about 120 miles in length along the shores of the Mediterranean
  - The area was divided into 3 distinct areas
    - Southern area of Judea (Jerusalem)
    - Northern area of Galilee (Sea of Galilee or Lake Tiberias)
    - In between the area of Samaria
    - Today – Harrisburg to Trenton, NJ is about 120 miles; Morgantown is 60
    - They walked everywhere so the disciples had a great deal of time with Jesus
  - In **John 4** Jesus is traveling from the south to the north and decides to pass through Samaria
  - Jews and Samaritans did not have anything to do with each other
    - Mid 700's BC the Assyrians invaded and captured Israel (**1 Chron; 2 Kings**)



- The king of Assyrian then repopulated the area with other people(s) not native to the land; foreigners
  - They began to intermarry with the Jews who remained and these blended cultures offspring were called Samaritans.
  - They were so hated by the pure Jews that they could not even help in the rebuild when Nehemiah was allowed to come back
  - They were also not permitted to worship in Jerusalem so they worshipped at Mt. Gerizim
  - The distaste was so pronounced that Jewish travelers would add a day of travel to go around the Samarian region rather than pass through
  - Jesus wanted none of that and we willing to confront head on the centuries of hatred between the two groups that had created a seemingly unbreakable barrier
- The other barrier Jesus was confronting was the gender barrier
- Last week we talked of Rahab
  - A Jewish man (Jesus) would never talk with much less ask anything of a Samaritan woman
- The woman was certainly aware of the oddity of what Jesus was doing
- *The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (John 4:9)*
- But what one thing did Jesus show her and what one thing can we apply today?
1. Grace and love conquer prejudice
    - + Prejudice is not only about race (denomination; church size; education; house or car you drive, they type of job, etc...)
    - + "All ground is level at the foot of the cross"
    - + *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God – (Rom 3:23)*
  2. Speak the truth in love
    - + Jesus didn't shy away from telling the woman the truth of the sin in her life
    - + We cannot shy away from being truthful about what is sin and what is not
    - + No compromise!
    - + Do not accept the cultural expectation that we should have to apologize for being Christian and sharing Jesus
      - ^ The Muslim aren't; the Mormon's aren't; the Jehovah's Witness; the atheist; the homosexual community; the abortionists
      - ^ Every sub-culture, every movement, every religion, every possible fringe group you can image are encouraged to speak out and stand for what you believe – except CHRISTIANS
      - ^ We must be willing to stand tall for who and what we are in the name of Jesus
      - ^ *"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. (Matt. 10:32-33)*



- What barriers are keeping you from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
  - Is it keeping you from surrendering and accepting Him into your life?
  - Is it keeping you from knowing Him more intimately and living completely for Him?
- Who or what are your Samaritans?