

Remnant Life Church  
Sunday, February 28, 2016  
Grace Abounding – Pt 2a  
No Condemnation  
Luke 7:36-50

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

- (Last week) Grace breaks through barriers of prejudice
- Jesus and the Samaritan woman
  - Did not care who she was and spoke the truth in love

Cathy comic strip (1976-2010...34 years – Cathy Guisewite)

- Sitting at home with her thoughts...
  - *Thing I should have done at work*
  - *Things I wish I had said to Irving*
  - *Things I promised myself I would never do again but I did anyway*
  - *Ways I made myself miserable that I could have avoided*  
(Her look of despair deepens as she continues)
  - *Things I could have done for my family, my friends, my coworkers, my finances, my home, my diet, my home, and the millions of people in desperate need around the world who I have never met*
  - Final frame – “Even when I’m not going anywhere, I carry 300 pounds of luggage with me”.
- The world calls this kind of emotional and mental baggage regret – the Bible calls it condemnation
- Condemnation (def) - expressions of very strong criticism and disapproval
- And it takes a multitude of forms:
  - The father whose heart is heavy as he realizes his children are growing up without him as his work occupies all of his time and energy
  - The undercurrent of grief and self-torture of the woman who aborted a pregnancy 20 years ago
  - The nagging disappointment of a Christian who was out the night before in places he knew he should not have been doing things he knew he should not be doing
  - The lies that are told; things we have done or left undone; broken promises
  - And we have carried some of these bags for so long that we begin to believe that it is a natural and normal part of my life to be weighted down with guilt
- The sad truth is that, apart from the cross, it IS normal
- **Romans 8:1** however tells us a truth that is life-changing - *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,*
- Condemnation is not of God
  - God brings conviction into our hearts with a desire to see us set free

- Satan sends condemnation with a desire to see us remain in the bondage of the past
- God has provided a way for us to be free from the crippling effects of guilt
- Satan tells us lies to keep us chained to a time or an event or a person when we failed
- **John 3:16** - ...*will not perish* (the penalty of sin) *but have everlasting life* (the gift of God because of His grace and mercy)
- So why is it so difficult for Christians to accept this gift from God and lay down this crippling burden?
  - Consider and ask yourself these questions...
  - Do you feel as if you are on some type of permanent probation believing that at any moment God might haul you back into the jail cell of His disfavor?
  - When you attempt to worship or even thank God do you maintain a respectful distance as if He were a fascinating but ill-tempered celebrity well-known for lashing out at His fans?
  - Does reading the Bible reveal and confirm the boundless love of God for you or does it intensify your already present disappointment and self-loathing?
  - Are you always more aware of your sin than you are of God's grace and love for you demonstrated by the cross?
- The Great Lie – cultivating and wallowing in your condemnation and shame is pleasing to God and living in a perpetual state of guilt will somehow promote and foster spiritual maturity and holiness.
- The truth is actually just the opposite!
  - God is glorified when we accept and believe in what He has done for us and live in the freedom of His forgiveness of our sins

**READ:** [Luke 7:36-50](#)

- The Setting
  - Jesus has been invited to eat at the home of Simon a prominent Pharisee (change of tactic?)
  - The basic social courtesies and customs of the day (wash the feet; a kiss of greeting; oil to refresh) had not been extended to Jesus
  - Simon did none of those things – so obvious that EVERYONE would have noticed
  - A feast was not eaten seated around a table;
    - < The tables of that day were low to the floor
    - < You would recline on the floor on pillows leaning on an elbow or perhaps lying on a low couch with your head at the table and feet pointed away
    - < Because of Jesus' notoriety people would have been crowded around the house trying to see and perhaps even hear Him
- A woman enters the house
  - < Planted by Simon?
  - < Or a woman who had been convicted by Jesus' words of how she lived?
  - The perfume vial was a tool of her trade

< Her fragrance would have been a silent lure or even an unspoken invitation to the men around her

< Also used in the days of sporadic bathing

- Whatever the circumstances her conviction overwhelms her and she begins to weep
  - She may have been following Jesus for some time
  - Perhaps this was as close as she had ever gotten to Him
  - The freedom of her forgiveness cannot be contained
  - Note that her actions of greeting and welcome were not given because Jesus had come into the house but because He had come into her life
  
- Part 2 – Sunday, March 6