



Grace Received, Grace Returned

Brent Moody · Luke 17:11–19 · Series: **Grace**

INTRODUCTION

- It is a story not about healing lepers, but about God's grace.
- You've probably heard the definition about grace, that it's unmerited favor. That is not a wrong definition. It is just incomplete.
- Grace received rightly becomes grace returned. It's returned in gratitude and repentance and worship and loyalty and obedience.

1 Grace Begins With Helplessness

Isaiah 59

- Grace begins with helplessness. That's what's portrayed in the story and portrayed well.
- Our sins have separated us from our God, Isaiah says in Isaiah 59.
- These lepers don't come bargaining. They don't come boasting. They are helpless men begging for mercy.
- We are helpless, we are needy, there's nothing that we can do for ourselves to fix this problem.

2 Doing What the Lord Requires Is Still Grace

Luke 17:7–10; Romans 5:6; Ephesians 2:8–9

- Did going to the priests earn the lepers their cleansing? Well, it sounds like a ridiculous question, and it is.
- So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, We are unworthy servants. We have only done what was our duty.
- Doing what the Lord requires to be saved from death is still completely grace. God is gracious.
- By grace you have been saved through faith, not a result of works, not anything I could have done.

3 Grace Rightly Received Is Returned to the Giver

- Because in true grace, in biblical grace, there's two sides to it. It's not just a free gift with no other obligations or requirements that come afterward.
- Grace rightly received or properly or correctly responded to means grace is then returned to the giver.
- Did you know that this word is more often used for a response to a favor than it is for the bestowing of a favor.
- A benefit passing in its course from hand to hand returns to the giver. The beauty of the whole is destroyed if the course is anywhere broken.

4 Grace in an Honor and Shame Culture

- The biblical context of grace is embedded within some things that are very different than our world. They lived in what was called an honor and shame culture.
- This system of benefaction and reciprocity stands behind this whole concept of grace that everybody in scripture would have understood because it's how their economy works.
- Grace can be the favor given, it can be the gift received, but it can also be the gratitude returned or the honor rendered.

5 We Give Ourselves Back to God

Galatians 2:20

- But we can give ourselves back to God.
- I have been crucified with Christ. It's no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
- We give up the old man and we're buried with him in baptism, and we come up a new man out of this water.
- That whole picture is one of responding to the grace of God, to what God has done for us. We don't repay grace.

6 Where Are the Nine?

Luke 17:17; Romans 2:4

- The one Samaritan leper shows what grace should look like. The other nine show us what one-sided, shameful grace looks like.
- If grace is not changing me, if it's not causing me to turn, if it's not producing something, then it has not been responded to properly.
- He says God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance. A turning.
- Cheap grace is grace without discipleship.

THE CHALLENGE

Where are the nine? Not just have we been blessed, not just have we been cleansed, but have we returned honor back to the giver?

MY NOTES
