

Sermon Notes

Week of Sunday, April 17, 2016

Sermon Series: Grasping Grace

Key Passage: Isaiah 58:1-10 (ESV)

Pastor - Mark Saunders



Grasping Grace

1 “Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.² Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God. (Isaiah 58:1-2 ESV)

Graceless works make a Christian selfish

3 ‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. (Isaiah 58:3 ESV)

Graceless works make a Christian mad

4 Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. (Isaiah 58:4 ESV)

How do I go from a graceless to a grace-full living?

A. Grace-full living starts with humility

5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord? (Isaiah 58:5 ESV)

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-9 ESV)

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B. Grace-full living is evidenced by a heart for the oppressed

6 “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6)

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3 ESV)

C. Grace-full living can't help but help

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? (Isaiah 58:7 ESV)

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:4 ESV)

8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. 9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, 10 if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. (Isaiah 58:8-10 ESV)

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Getting Started

1. Did anything stand out to you about Mark's sermon this weekend? Did you hear anything that you are applying to your life? If so, what?
2. How has grace been explained to you? What comes to your mind when someone talks about grace?
3. What changed in your life when you started to live into the grace-full life that Christ has given to us?

Read Isaiah 58:1-10

Take note of anything that stands out to you, anything that confuses you, or anything that interests you.

- 1 "Cry aloud; do not hold back;
lift up your voice like a trumpet;
declare to my people their transgression,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
- 2 Yet they seek me daily
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that did righteousness
and did not forsake the judgment of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they delight to draw near to God.
- 3 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?'
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.
- 4 Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with a wicked fist.
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will not make your voice to be heard on high.

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a day for a person to humble himself?
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Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the Lord?
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and your gloom be as the noonday. (Isaiah 58:1-10 ESV)

1. What is your understanding of this scripture as a whole? What application do you see for these verses in your life?

2. Who is the author writing to? What sins is he speaking about in verse 1? Have you ever been frustrated while serving God?

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3. Why does God refuse to take note of their fast and hear their prayers? What is acceptable to the Lord when fasting and praying?
4. Where does grace come into the picture in Isaiah 58? What is significant about the events that lead up to grace in this passage?
5. What are the action steps that the audience gets from verses 6-10? What is significant about the first 5 verses compared to the last 5 verses?

Becoming:

Continue to memorize Scripture this week. Allow the Word of God to come to mind in difficult situations and change the way that you approach difficult situations. Find 2-6 verses of Scripture to memorize and keep in your heart. Set it as the background of your phone screen. Write it on an index card and tape it somewhere that you look often. Read it out loud and continue to repeat it on your way to work or while getting ready in the morning. Take some time as a group to discuss the Scripture that you will memorize this week. Suggested Scripture...Romans 3:20-24, John 1:14, Isaiah 58:8-10, 1 Peter 4:7-11.