

When Did You Last See God? Or “Got Grace?”

(Matthew 25:31-40) June 25th (Redemption conclusion)

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PLAY VIDEO: “Man on Street Interview about Grace.”

Introduction: The Kingdom of God is Before You.

Story of SHANAY. Barely survived as an infant born to a mother who used heroin. A family adopted her, and helped her overcome many health problems. Several times Shanay’s heart stopped because of a rare heart condition, and she struggled with Liver failure. Eventually the family (including 7 other adopted children, moved to where Shanay could receive a liver transplant. Shanay almost died several times after the surgery, but by the Grace of God she survived and had a vision to start a ministry called (Got Grace? Ministries)

Why did Shanay want to call her ministry GOT GRACE? She wants to raise money for the families of other kids who are hospitalized. She wants to be able to help pay for travel, gas, food, and pay for some of the family’s bills so that they can afford to be with the child in the hospital and not have to worry about missing work.

A friend of hers wrote: “Shanay is such a great example of understanding and compassion. She tackles all of life’s challenges with the innocence of a child and the determination of someone who has fought for her life and won, many times over. Shanay knows that hers is an important story to share with others. It is an amazing testimony to faith and hope, but above all, Shanay’s story is a testament to God’s grace.”

The point here is that when you have received the grace of God you can’t help but want to share the grace of God with others? GRACE or NO GRACE.

(Who have you chosen to serve? The Lord of Grace, or yourself?)

I. The Glorious Redeemer (31)

Mt 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

The time to come to know Jesus Christ, the redeemer sent from God, is not when the day of judgment arrives. The time to know Jesus is now, not later. For much of his life the apostle Paul fought against Christians, but one day the Lord came to change his life and then he wrote: We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2Co 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2Co 6:1 As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.

2Co 6:2 For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, **now** is the time of God’s favor, **now is the day** of salvation.

Once Paul had received the unmerited gift of God’s grace he realized how urgent the message of God’s grace in Christ is for the salvation of souls. Lives are in the balance. The work of God’s salvation in Christ is available, the work of believers is to live up the truth that has set them free. Live as Jesus lived, serve as Lord so served us, have faith that leads you to share God’s unconditional love without reserve or selfishness, without fear of rejection or failure. Most people realize they are sinners, however God calls us to do more than acknowledge this, confession of sins needs to be met with contrition. Contrition involves a change of heart, a change of behavior, a change to do the will of God. JESUS is a glorious redeemer, when he comes again there will be no mistaking His awesome power and majesty. Yet there is an ongoing presence of Jesus because he is the Son of God, and coexists with God

in the midst of God's creative and redemptive work in creation.

JESUS IS GLORIOUS. How can more people come to know this? What can we do to help others see just how wonderful He is? The Day of judgment is coming!

II. All People are Gathered for **Judgment** (32-33)

Mt 25:32 **All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate^w the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.^x**

Mt 25:33 **He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.**

The awesome day of the Lord is coming, and every knee shall bow to Him, and every tongue will confess that He is Lord. The question is: Do you know Jesus or not? Do we live a life of obedience and joy that extends to how we treat one another? Have we received the unmerited gift of Grace, or have we thought of ourselves too highly and not acknowledge the gift of God's grace?

A day is coming when people will have to appear before the judgment seat of God, appearing before Jesus Christ who will separate people according to their having received grace or not.

GRACE or NO GRACE? This is the utmost important question. (Next page: Romans 3:22-24)

Ro 3:22 **This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,** Ro 3:23 **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,** Ro 3:24 **and are justified freely by his **grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**

A. The **Sheep**. (Those who have been redeemed)

*"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep
and my sheep know me — just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep."
(John 10:14-15)*

B. The **Goats**. (Those who rejected redemption)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it.

Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no

place for them. (Rev. 20:11)

If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life,

he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:15)

III. The Redeemed are **Welcomed** (34)

Mt 25:34 **"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.**

The redeemed have something to look forward to, but this is not an excuse to stop serving, but an incentive to serve the Lord with greater purpose, joy, vigor, and urgency. Jesus makes it clear that the Kingdom of Heaven is prepared for us, indeed it has been prepared for us since the beginning of creation. God has been at work to redeem lost humanity for the sake of His Kingdom plan.

IV. How Did the Redeemed **See** God? (35-40)

Mt 25:35 **For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,^a**

Mt 25:36 **I needed clothes and you clothed me,^b I was sick and you looked after me,^c I was in prison and you came to visit me.'^d**

Mt 25:37 **"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?**

Mt 25:38 **When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?**

Mt 25:39 **When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’**

Mt 25:40 **“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’**

People will see God through the Body of Christ. People will know Christ as Christ lives in us.

People will experience the Grace of God only as we live by the Grace of God.

People will grow in Grace only as they trust in the Grace of God.

We have a world that has forgotten what the Grace of God is all about.

IT’s time that we live more and more by the Grace of God in our families, in our church, in our places of work, in our communities. It’s time we share the Christian worldview of Grace with a world that is torn and troubled. For God’s grace is the only hope for redemption. It is the only glue that can bind us together and bring healing. Today, God is calling us to come and let His grace be given into our lives again.

Conclusion: Redeemed for a purpose.

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. (James 2:26)

“The Great Commission tells us to “Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:30-31) We all have needs. This is what gives every human, rich or poor, ill or healthy, commonality. In as much as you understand your own needs, remember that we will all be in need of grace in the time of our greatest struggles. So maybe we should all start loving our neighbor as ourselves and help support GOT GRACE?”

Invitation: Challenge Point: Who are you reaching out to?

What are you doing for Christ?

Salvation is by God’s Gift of Grace.

COME TO THE PLACE OF GRACE.

WHEREVER YOU GO BRING THE GRACE OF GOD.

(HIS unconditional love and forgiveness)

Redemption comes through faith in Jesus Christ.