

North Christian Church -

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11/10/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -
Part 19

The Little Things (Lk 16, 19)

It's often easier to walk in the general direction of goodness and be unkempt, spiritually. It's analogous to a person who is able to keep a job, but shows up consistently hung over, filthy, etc.

Individual Beauty

The Lord isn't looking for us to mimic each other's lives...He wants us to be ourselves, "do business" with His grace (ala minas in Lk 19), and enjoy the ride!

"Gee, what do I do in this situation?"

...said God, NEVER!

God Is Life

Any meaningful discovery we might make in life is something that has always been. God doesn't have "epiphanies" or "aha" moments (Ecc 1:9)...those times are unique to man. As he realizes the things of God, his mind is "blown".

Normalized Struggles

Dysfunctional man, though he often complains incessantly about his struggles, actually perversely PREFERS the so-called "struggle"...so much so, we impose it on God, which is silliness.

Perspective

Is there ever really only ONE variable in a life equation? Does God willingly crush one of His own for one reason, or multiple (many of which man has no idea about?) Sometimes it's obvious, sometimes it's not, but every time, there are things we don't know. (e.g.: Deu 8)

"humbled"

from ana (Hebrew) - to oppress, humiliate; to be afflicted; God uses whatever means necessary to impress His will/purpose upon man's heart, whether it is accommodating to man's sensibilities, or not - this is TRUE GRACE!

Grace Isn't Always "nice"

Man has pigeonholed grace into a one-sided thing, where it is defined as all things

that accommodate man's predisposition about God's benevolence towards His creatures. These are the inventions of man's flesh.

It's a Big Deal!

Trusting in Christ from the heart IS NOT a light-hearted decision, and that's why we must be careful of using light-hearted language.

It's a Big Deal!

It's truly impossible to use "light-hearted" language if we introduce the fullness of God's sovereignty against the depravity of man's inherent condition.

The Gospel Is Offensive

There's only one Gospel that the flesh will ever be wholly offended by, The Gospel of Jesus Christ. False gospels will always have something appealing to the flesh baked into them, always be based on perversions of God's grace in salvation.

On Life and Death

Man seeks to impose His will over God's. He wants God to accommodate him, and then call it "grace". But you see, that's not God's grace at all, it's a perversion! God's grace accommodates His perfect righteousness, to His glory.