



JESUS IS ____ .
Part 2: Grace and Mercy
Sermon Small Group Questions
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[1 Corinthians 15.20, NIV]

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

Grace = *God's unmerited, undeserved favor*

Grace is God's meeting us at our point of need in the person of Jesus Christ. - Jack Hayford

Jesus is the source of grace, the epitome of grace, the embodiment of grace; Jesus is grace, and grace is Jesus. - Judah Smith

GRACE/charis (Greek) = Divine influence upon the heart and His reflection in our lives

[John 7.1-6, 37-46, NLT]

After this, Jesus traveled around Galilee. He wanted to stay out of Judea, where the Jewish leaders were plotting his death. But soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters, and Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles! You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!" For even his brothers didn't believe in him. Jesus replied, "Now is not the right time for me to go, but you can go anytime.

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.) When the crowds heard him say this, some of them declared, "Surely this man is the Prophet we've been expecting." Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others said, "But he can't be! Will the Messiah come from Galilee? For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born." So the crowd was divided about him. Some even wanted him arrested, but no one laid a hand on him. When the Temple guards returned without having arrested Jesus, the leading priests and Pharisees demanded, "Why didn't you bring him in?" "We have never heard anyone speak like this!" the guards responded.

Grace is good news to those who are hungry and thirsty and broken.

Everybody wants to make a statement about Jesus!

[John 8.1-11, NLT]

¹Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Justice and mercy are never forgotten; only the Redeemer could make that statement of release to the woman because He would take the punishment upon himself. Jesus is the Mercy Seat. He is our atonement!

[Romans 12.1, AMP]

I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

Mercy is not sweeping sin under the rug; it's someone else paying the price for you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What motivates you in serving others?**
- 2. Why is it so easy to begin in grace, but then get caught up in rules and regulations?**
- 3. Are you thirsty, hungry, or broken today? What are you needing refreshing in today from Jesus?**
- 4. How does the woman caught in adultery (in here sin) represent all of us?**
- 5. When Jesus released the woman, how was He both just and merciful?**
- 6. What are ways that we can combat religious and condemning mindsets?**
- 7. What Good News is God giving you personally these days that you need to share with others?**