

# December 2005: Grace Is For You Too

by Aaron Greenway

Have you ever at one point thought that you had done something so bad that God could not forgive you? Have you ever believed that because you had strayed so far from God that He could not reach you, that He wouldn't accept you back. For a person who has to live with this hellish feeling, it is very difficult to accept God's forgiveness because he doesn't believe he is worthy of it. Many of us believe that others are more worthy to receive His mercy than we are. In the first place, we are in error to believe such a thing because salvation is by grace and no one is -ever- worthy. So, we need to get rid of that notion from the beginning.

In these past few months, we have seen the Lord working in many lives. My brother-in-law just received Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior a few weeks ago. Some friends of ours have had some personal miracles in their own family where holding grudges was the norm. The Lord is also providing for our new album. Lastly, my students at school are always learning and improving in their studies. The Lord continues to work miracles because He loves us.

In Mark 5, Jesus was on His way to heal a young woman with many following along. All of a sudden, He feels that someone has touched his mantel. He turns around to see who it is and finds a woman who has had a blood disorder for ten years. She had believed that by touching Jesus' mantel, she would be healed. Verse 29 then says, "Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering." From here Jesus goes to revive the young girl who has now died. God is always looking to reveal Himself to us in order that we are changed and also so that we will love Him.

We look all around us and even though it seems that the Lord is doing nothing in our daily lives, we can be confident that He will not abandon us. He is working in secret for our good and from the beginning He has wanted an intimate relationship with us. The only thing that we need is to be faithful

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to Him, whether we feel something or not. But we can be confident that He wants to do something among us.

When I think about Christmas, the first thing that crosses my mind is how Jesus came to this earth virtually unnoticed. Only those who faithfully sought the Lord were the ones who found Him. Only they could see God's glory manifested in the earth after so many years of silence. But that doesn't mean that God wasn't working. As much as they had sought the presence of God, the presence of God came in a way they had not expected, in the form of a little baby. While others looked for their political King, only the shepherds, the Magi, a couple of elderly people, the parents of Jesus, and some sheep and pigs witnessed it...and only after so much waiting. But every waiting moment was worth it.

When our world seems to be crumbling around us or when we need so badly for God to be near us, many times we just have to trust what His word says, that God will never leave His own. God always keeps His word. And for those who tend to believe that God would never forgive their sins, they desperately need to experience the generous heart of our merciful Lord. The mission of Jesus to save this world was not for nothing; and at his Ascension, He left His disciples the precious promises for them to pass on to later generations that they too could be forgiven and become children of God. You can take that one to the bank!

It doesn't matter what you have done, nor how much you have sinned. The Lord is waiting to forgive and receive you. It is time to leave your condemnation behind. To have Christ is to have hope that he will do what He has promised; and even though it seems that God has forgotten you, rest assured that God has heard your cries and will never let you down. Just be faithful, continue on, and don't ever give up.

Something to ponder...

Your brother,  
Aaron Greenway