

The Problem with Grace

Luke 14: 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Christians are most often judged
by the most challenging aspects of
faith.

*"It's supposed to be
hard. If it wasn't hard,
everyone would do it.
The hard... is what
makes it great"*



Jonah 3: Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

3 Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.

Jonah 3: 4 Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." 5 The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

Jonah 3: 6 When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. 7 This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Jonah 3: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. 8 But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.

Jonah 3: 9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

God was at work among the
Ninevites

long before Jonah preached.

God does the heavy lifting
of reaching souls.

God “appointed”

a great wind (1:4), a huge fish
(1:17), a leafy plant (4:6), a worm
(4:7), east wind (4:8)

God can do more with a poor
prophet who says the words

than with the best Christian who
says nothing.

Jonah obeyed...and went (3:3)

God would rather have obedience
with a bad attitude than
disobedience with a good attitude.

Matthew 21: 28 ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

29 “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind **and went**... 31 “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

God doesn't ask us to do the heavy
lifting of reaching souls,
but He does ask us to participate.

What truly drives our reluctance
to participate with God in reaching
the lost?

Jonah 4: But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish.

Jonah 4: I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

The problem with grace according to Jonah

is that grace is for everyone.

Appropriately responding to grace
is one of the most challenging
aspects of faith.

Grace results from Godly wisdom
which means grace is an
expression of trust.

Ephesians 2: 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God— 9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

We do the hard work of faith and
grace because

it is a vital means by which the
world will know Jesus is Lord.

John 13: 34 “A new command I give you:
Love one another. As I have loved you, so
you must love one another. **35 By this
everyone will know** that you are my
disciples, if you love one another.”

Treating our enemies with the love
of Christ

is foundational for discipleship.

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