

Title: Grace for Today
Text: Mt 6: 19-34
Date: Dec 31, 2023
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Subject: Grace for Today

Tomorrow is the first day of the new year. Many make resolutions. Most resolutions concern what we will do in the weeks and months ahead. Most concern our life, our body, earthly gain. But this is what Christ teaches his people.

Matthew 6: 33: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34: Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Proposition: Christ teaches us he will give grace *for today*—do not worry about tomorrow—when tomorrow becomes today, he will *grace for today*

So today seek Christ and his righteousness first. Today have your eye and your heart set single on Christ. Do not worry about tomorrow—do not set your affection on things below—your heavenly Father will provide things you need for your body. When tomorrow becomes today, he will *grace for today*. Have one single aim: seek Christ today. If the Lord will make this our resolution then we have a good resolution!

For context, the first illustration uses treasures: Christ and his unsearchable riches is the treasure of those born from above.

Matthew 6: 19: Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

If your treasure is in the earth, your heart will be set on the earth. But if your treasure is Christ in heaven then your heart will be set on Christ above.

The next illustration uses light. Christ said, “I am the Light.” He is the Light of those born from above.

Matthew 6: 22: The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, [set single on Christ the Light alone] thy whole body shall be full of light. 23: But if thine eye be evil, [covetous; set on earthly riches] if thine eye be evil thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

Set your eye on Christ our Light, not earthly riches. He gives another illustration using masters--this is the point of both illustrations that came before.

Matthew 6: 24: No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Our master cannot be Christ *and* earthly gain. Our treasure cannot be Christ *and* earth riches. Our eye cannot be set on Christ the Light *and* set on this evil dark world. It is one or the other.

Matthew 6: 25: Therefore I say unto you, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Luke 12 :15: And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. [Christ gave the illustration of the rich man that built bigger barns to hold his earthly treasures. The man said] 19 I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. 20 But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21 So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Matthew 6: 25...Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Christ said, “I am the Life.” For those born from above our Life is Christ, our Life is Spiritual.

Romans 14:17: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Christ said, “*the Kingdom of God is within you.*” (Lu 17: 21) The Spirit of God gives a new spirit so that our new heart is set on Christ our Righteousness, Christ our Peace, Christ our Joy.

But what about my earthly needs?

Matthew 6: 26: Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27: Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28: And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30: Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? 31: Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32: (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;

Colossians 3: 1: If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2: Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3: For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Matthew 6: 33...and all these things shall be added unto you. 34: Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

Christ promises to give us grace for today. He is our cure for anxious worry about tomorrow. He commands us not to worry about tomorrow. There is enough evil today, without worrying about tomorrow. But each day our Savior gives us grace for today.

Grace for today is the Spirit of God making Christ All to us today!

Through the good, the bad, and the ugly, he is growing us in the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus today—keeping us mindful that Christ Jesus is the one thing needful today!

ALL GRACE IS FROM CHRIST'S FULNESS

John 1: 16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. 17: For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

We are assured that our Savior will give us grace for today as we remember we are saved by grace—and all grace is given out of Christ's fulness.

The law was given by Moses. Moses gave us the law but no grace. We had already broken the law. Justice demanded we die. So we could not keep the law. When born-again we still have Adam's sin-nature, so we still cannot keep the law in the righteousness God demands.

But grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. On the cross, Christ made grace and truth kiss in harmony

Psalm 85: 10: Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.

Truth, Righteousness is Christ who fulfilled the law for his people by laying down his life for us on the cross. He declared God just—establishing justice by his death. He justified all his people—fulfilling the law on our behalf.

Grace is Christ coming to us by the Spirit through his gospel and revealing in our hearts, "It is finished!" In the new birth, he gave us *grace for grace*—grace to believe we are justified by his grace—grace to believe Christ is the Truth who established us in the Truth—in his Righteousness—fulfilling the law on our behalf.

Romans 3: 24: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood,

GRACE TO REPLACE GRACE

Grace for grace means *Christ gives grace to those he redeemed to replace another kind of grace.* He brought us under the everlasting covenant of grace to replace the grace of the former legal covenant—"For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth [*grace and righteousness*] came by Jesus Christ."

It was grace for God to give us the law and make us hear we are guilty. The law ministered death to our self-righteous self. The law had glory in that regard. But Christ gave us grace to replace that grace. He gave us grace to bring us under the everlasting covenant of grace—*grace for grace*.

2 Corinthians 3: 8: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be [more] glorious? 9: For if the ministration of condemnation *be* glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. 10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. 11: For if that which is done away *was* glorious, much more that which remaineth *is* glorious.

By regeneration by the Holy Spirit, Christ gave us grace delivering us from the glory of the old covenant and death, into the glory of the everlasting covenant of grace and eternal life—grace for grace.

2 Corinthians 3: 17: Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Christ fulfilled the Truth on the cross and Christ brought us under the everlasting covenant of grace—*grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*.

Hebrews 10: 7: Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8...he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law; 9: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. HE TAKETH AWAY THE FIRST, THAT HE MAY ESTABLISH THE SECOND. 10: By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once.

GRACE FOR THE CAUSE OF GRACE

Why did he do this for his people. Grace for grace *means grace is the cause of grace*. There is no other cause for God electing his people but grace. Christ justified us due to grace. Grace is the reason the Spirit of God regenerated us and brought us into the adoption of children. We are preserved, resurrected and glorified for no other cause than grace. We are saved for no other reason but grace! Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

GRACE FOR THE END PURPOSE OF GRACE

Grace for grace means Christ gives grace for the end purpose of declaring salvation is all of grace. The disciples received the grace of apostleship in order to preach the Gospel of the grace of God. They received grace for the purpose of Christ using them to call out his lost sheep by grace. He gives grace for the end purpose that through the gospel Christ might grow us in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All of this grace for grace in our salvation is how we know he will keep us and give us grace for today!

GRACE FOR TODAY

Seeing that Christ has given us all this grace for grace, we know our Redeemer shall provide grace for today. He shall provide for our needs in this life. Christ said your heavenly Father knoweth you have need of these things. How can we be sure our heavenly Father will supply all our need?

Romans 3: 32: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Christ said do not worry about tomorrow. There is sufficient evil today without adding tomorrow's to it. We become so distracted by this world. Imagine what it would be like if we did not have some device constantly filling our mind with noise. Imagine if we did not have news reporting all the evil all the time. That is why this world is so fearful and thinks everything is a conspiracy, they pipe evil into their ears all day long. The world and its treasures are not of the Father but of the world.

1 John 2: 16: For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

What is his will? He said, "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*" Christ said, "*Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, I will give you rest!*" Child of God, TODAY, get in a quiet place, get in his word, call to him and hear Christ speak to you personally.

Christ promises to give us grace for today. Our Sovereign Savior is always keeping his people, always instructing his people. He is doing so using everything he brings to pass in our lives. God foreordained everything that comes to pass in our lives so that every day we are living what God already determined from the beginning. He sets judgment in each of our hearts, personally, to know it is God is working "all things together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom 8: 28)

Grace for today is grace for you personally today. Our Savior teaches us one-on-one, personally, between you and him. Peter was no sooner restored by our Savior and Peter asked, "And what should John do?" The Lord answered, "What's that to you? FOLLOW THOU ME!" We are to look on the things of others. But it means being a helper to provide their need not meddling in their business. You, child of God, you who Christ redeemed, are the one focus of our all-knowing, ever-present Lord and Savior. How can I be his one focus and every redeemed child be his one focus? It is impossible for man but our Savior is God!

John 14: 26...[Christ said the Holy Spirit] shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. 27:...my peace I give unto you:...Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33: These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Grace for today is our Lord Jesus bringing to remembrance all things that he has said. Grace for today is our Lord Jesus making us have peace in our Lord Jesus Christ alone. Grace for today is our Lord Jesus making us be of good cheer, that he has overcome the world and we in him. As for our needs, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Thomas Brooks said, "God hath in Himself all power to defend you, all wisdom to direct you, all mercy to pardon you, all grace to enrich you, all righteousness to cloth you, all goodness to supply you and all happiness to crown you."

Amen!