

THE UNSETTLING SOLUTION FOR JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING

WEEK 1: UNDESERVABLE

There is an unsettling solution for just about everything, and we can sum it up in one word — grace. It's the undeserved, unearned, unearnable favor that Jesus came to offer us. So why wouldn't we want Christianity to be true? And where should you start if it's a word that was never part of the equation for you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's are the differences between these two statements: I don't believe Christianity is true. I don't want it to be true. Do you think there are common experiences that those who have an "I don't want it to be true" mentality might share?
2. Has your experience with Christianity been more focused on grace or truth? How did that focus affect your view of Jesus? How did it affect your view of yourself?
3. Read John 1:14. Grace can only be experienced in the context of a relationship. Why was Jesus coming to earth an essential part of God's plan to give us grace? As a friend of Jesus and eyewitness to his ministry, what do you think John meant by "We have seen his glory?" What is the difference between keeping a balance of grace and truth and being full of grace and truth? Do you find yourself trying to keep the two in balance? How's it going? Jesus never watered down the truth or turned down the grace. Which way do you tend to lean when confronted with someone else's sin?
4. Read Luke 23:32-43. Who in the passage do you identify with most? Why? The people: Stood watching. Curious. Not willing to fully engage on either side. The rulers and soldiers: Mocked Jesus. Unwilling to believe. Didn't want it to be true. The criminal: Admitted his guilt. Recognized Jesus' innocence. Asked humbly for his grace.
5. Jesus disturbed the proper order of things when he extended grace to the criminal. And it wasn't because he forgot about his crimes. God doesn't forget our sin. It's better than that. What's the difference in having our sin forgotten and having our sin forgiven?
6. Grace is an invitation that says, "I know all about you, the good and the bad, and I love you anyway. Follow me and I will lead you away from your life of sin." If you've never seen grace for what it really is, what would it look like for you to accept this invitation?

MOVING FORWARD

Like life, grace is not fair. Over and over Jesus leaned into and toward unrepentant sinners. He leaned toward guilty people. It was a new category. It was grace. In the person of Jesus, there was a new covenant maker in town. This week, write John 1:14 on a card to remind you, especially in this season, of the reason Jesus came - for you.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The Word because flesh and made His home among us.

John 1:14 (NLT)