

Sermon Title: Looking at an Old Hymn in a New Way

Earlier this week I asked a question on Facebook and got some great responses, that question was “What is your favorite hymn?”

The hymn that got the most votes was the one we just sang, “Amazing Grace” and that song is appropriate for tonight because it reminds us of what we have done, and what God has done.

To fully understand God’s grace in our lives, we need to fully understand the depths of our sin.

Grace is defined as unmerited favor, it is love given to the unlovely, and peace given to the restless. Grace is the opposite of Karma.

Luke 6:27-36

I asked myself the question, I know the amazing grace God has shown to me, but am I showing amazing grace to others?

Jesus is telling us to react differently than the world tells us to.

Jesus is also telling us not to react with attacking back with our words, our intellect, or our sarcasm.

Jesus ends this section of the passage with the golden rule, do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Don’t do unto others as they do unto you, but treat others the way that you want to be treated.

Jesus is calling us to do more, not because the world deserves it or other people deserve it, but he is calling us to do more because God has done the most for us.

So the question on everyone’s mind probably is, what can I practically do to show amazing grace to others?

- Follow Titus 2:11-14: If you really want to do better at showing others amazing grace you need to turn off the voice in your head that says things like “What’s in it for me?” or “how much help does one person need?”
- Follow James 4:6-10: The major point of this passage is to humble ourselves because it says that twice in there. Humbling ourselves before God is great practice to humbling ourselves before other people.

If those passages aren't enough, here are some more practical things you can do

1. Words - Be kind and gentle in what you say and how you say it. (Prov 15:1, Ephesians 4:29)
2. Look for Needs and Opportunities – simple everyday kindnesses and actions often help in great ways. (Romans 12:10)
3. Let it Go – Respond always with grace not taking offense to everything. (Prov 20:3)
4. Be There - Sometimes your presence is all that's needed to show someone they're loved. (Rom 12:15)
5. Forgive - When someone asks you to forgive, do so graciously and without correction. (Matthew 6:14-15)
6. Learn to Ask for Forgiveness - Be quick to apologize when you make a mistake or have wronged someone else. (Matthew 5:23-24)
7. Gratitude - Say thank you often and let people know how much you appreciate them. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
8. Take an Interest in Others - Learn about other people, ask them questions, listen and care. (Philippians 2:3)

Challenge: to have us all fully understand that amazing grace God has shown to us, and to then show amazing grace to everyone we see as often as we can.