



# Forgiveness

**Forgiveness  
Handout for the  
book**

**Grace and  
Forgiveness**

**by John and Carol  
Arnott**

# JUSTICE IS GOOD BUT MERCY IS BETTER

## Understanding God's Grace:

"No one can really understand God's love unless they understand the free gift of His mercy and His grace."

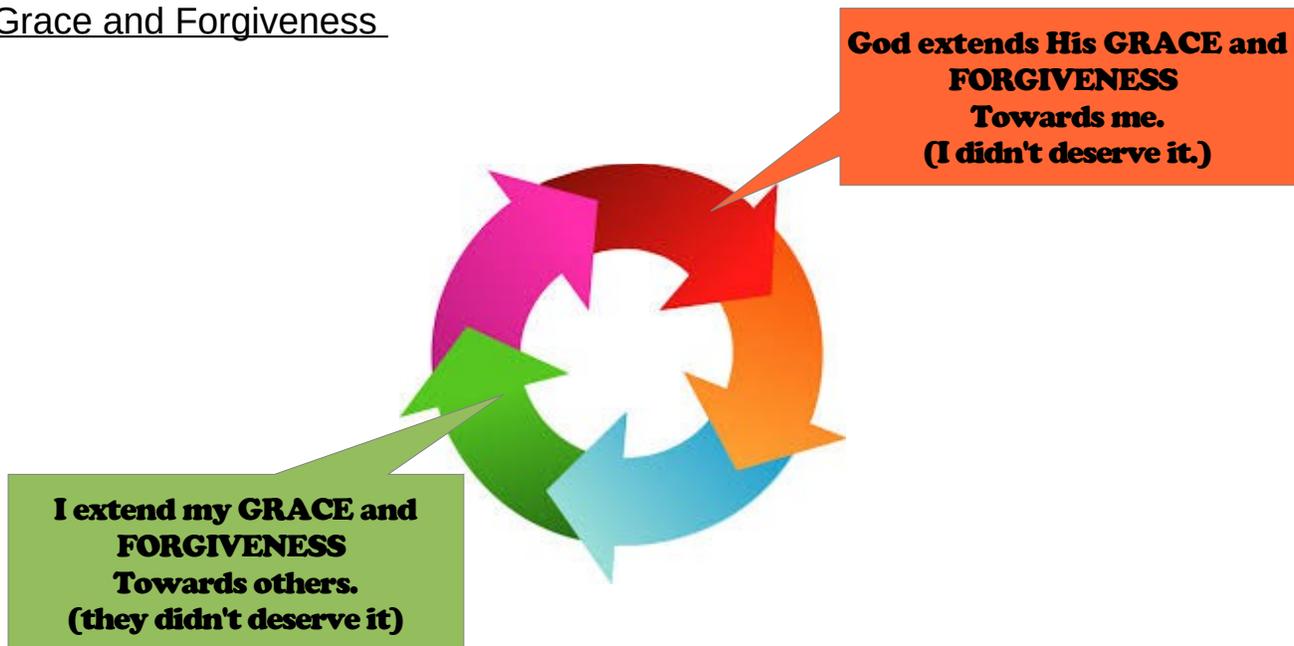
Mercy= not getting what I do deserve

Grace=getting what I don't deserve

\*God's mercy and grace towards me begins with His LOVE for me.

\*His love is a GIFT. (not deserved, can't earn it)

## Grace and Forgiveness

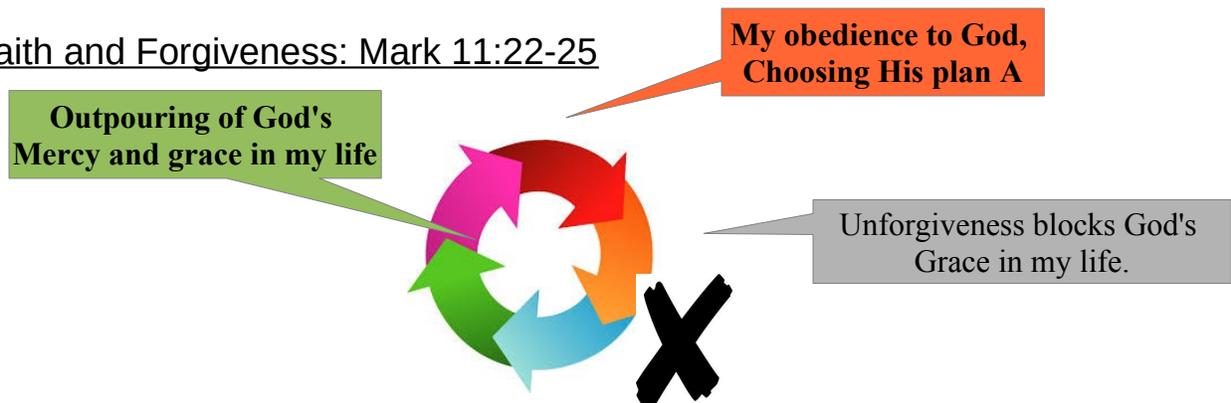


## Two Truths About God

- God is very big and powerful and there is nothing He can't do.
- God is very loving and compassionate towards us.

He IS love. It is His character. Love is not what God does, it is who He is.

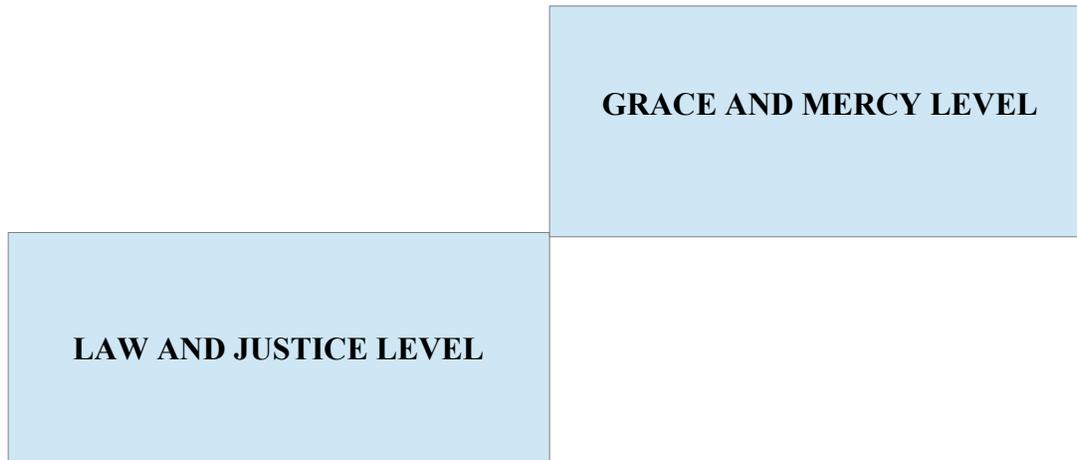
## Faith and Forgiveness: Mark 11:22-25



Faith and our prayers....seeing God do great things (God has incredible resources) are dependent upon how I forgiven others. Unforgiveness blocks God's grace, blessing; protection in my life.

Unforgiveness cripples my prayer life. How many prayers go unanswered, how many blessings are forfeited because of unforgiveness?

## LEVEL OF JUSTICE/LEVEL OF GRACE



### Law of Justice and Level

- God's character is JUST. Justice keeps order/peace.
- God sees everything, the big picture as well as the smallest detail. He sees all sin and because He is just, He knew that the issue of sin would need to be addressed. God does not sweep sin under the carpet nor does He ignore it.
- God sent Himself (Jesus) to the cross to pay for our sin because justice had to be served.

### Grace and Mercy Level

- Ephesians 2:8 A gift I did not deserve, did not earn.
- I move from justice level to grace level because of the cross.
- It is my choice to receive this gift.

We tend to have a double standard:

- \*we want mercy from God but justice for others
- \*we minimize or justify our own sin but maximize the sins of others

## Matthew 18:21-25 The Unmerciful Servant

verse 21- Peter's question really meant..."when is enough...enough?" Peter didn't really understand grace at all.

Verses 22-34 the servant's huge debt is *cancelled* after begging for mercy but he *forfeits* all of that when he *refuses* to cancel a much smaller debt owed to him.

Verse 35 punchline.

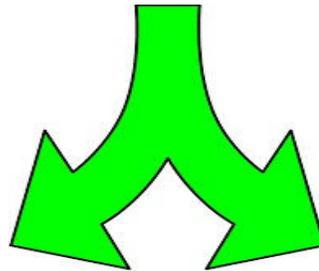
### Choosing Justice or Mercy

You can't have it both ways. You cannot live in both the justice/grace planes. You must choose which plane you will live on.



Offended? Hurt?

Time to make a choice which plane you will live in....



#### **Law and Judgment Level**

- \*focus is on self, pain, rights, injustices
- \*take matters into your own hands, revenge
- \*making judgments, criticisms, negative thoughts/words
- \*feeling owed
- \*I want justice!
  
- Consequences of this level:
- \*my debt is reinstated to me
- \*loss of God's blessing, protection and provision
- \*on Satan's playing field
- \*reap what I sow
- \*energy sucker

#### **Grace and Mercy Level**

- \*immediately choose to forgive the offender
- \*release the pain, the offense to the Lord and ask Him to minister healing to you
- \*leave justice in God's hands
- \*focus in that God is just and all sin will be addressed, His timing not mine
- \*pray for God to work in heart of offender
- \*pray for eyes to see offender as God sees them
- \*forgiveness is center point for Christian (Matthew 6:9, 14-15)
- \*remember gift of YOUR forgiveness

## **NEGATIVE THOUGHTS/WORDS**

### **LET'S SPEAK LIFE INSTEAD!**

#### Energy Sucker=Living In A Wounded State

\*bitterness in my heart prevents me from healing and I walk around with a wounded heart...draining the life and energy from me

- self-focused and I can't give to others
- difficulty drawing closer to the Lord, less intimacy, more coldness
- live in survival mode versus thriving
- I am not open to being healed
- living on Satan's level and find myself bombarded with negative thoughts/emotions

“Every negative thing and thought is always of the enemy and every ;positive, life-giving, uplifting thought is always of the Holy Spirit.” -Mark Virkler

The Holy Spirit is always POSITIVE. Satan is always NEGATIVE.

So pay attention to what you are thinking and saying!

(Pride and an independent spirit cause us to think we are wise enough/well informed enough to pass judgments....both are faulty and dangerous!

Revelation 12:10b when we accuse, we side with Satan. Yes...we really are.

## **THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING**

Matthew 7:1,2

Romans 2:1

Galatians 6:7

We reap what we have sown.

If we have sown judgment....we will reap it in a larger proportion back!

How many of our present day trials are merely us reaping what we have sown?

**Please refer to pages 74-78 to pray through how to:**

“I choose to forgive you \_\_\_\_\_ for (be specific). I give you a gift of my forgiveness. What you did was wrong, but I won't hold it against you any longer, nor will I bring it back up.

Father, would you please forgive me for my bitterness and judging attitude towards \_\_\_\_\_? I place \_\_\_\_\_ in your hands as their judge, for I have no right to stand in a place of judgment. I ask for your grace, your mercy, your forgiveness.