This One’s Not for Sale January 19, 2020

*2 Kings 5:15-19 Series: Help When You Feel Helpless*

Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out, and your dog would go in. – Mark Twain

Intro: What stops us?

1. You don’t respond to God’s grace by trying to buy it.
2. Expressing gratefulness for God’s goodness is appropriate.

v. 15 *Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him.*

v. 15 *accept now a present from your servant*

Luke 17:15-17 *Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice;*

*and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?*

1. Trying to ‘even accounts’ by paying God for His grace dishonours Him.

v. 16 *But he said, “As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none.”*

v. 16 *And he urged him to take it, but he refused.*

Acts 8:18 *Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money …*

* Why is the free gift of God’s grace so hard for people to accept?
* If Elisha had taken Naaman’s gift, what message might it have sent him?
* What’s the difference between expressing gratefulness to God and trying to even accounts with Him?

1. You respond to God’s grace by lowering your pride.
2. Lowering your pride involves letting go of false views of God.

v. 15 *he said, “Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel …”*

John 3:30 *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

1. Lowering your pride involves submitting to God’s leaders.

v. 15 *a present from your servant*

v. 17 *given to your servant*

v. 17 *your servant will not offer*

v. 18 *pardon your servant* (2x)

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

* Why would it have been humbling for Naaman to acknowledge that the God of Israel was the only true God?
* How can you know if your convictions are rooted in stubbornness or humility?
* Why is it so striking that Naaman addresses Elisha repeatedly with the words “your servant?”
* What are some ways that Christians should express submission to the leaders God gives them?

1. You respond to God’s grace by lifting up Jesus.
2. You lift up Jesus by giving Him worship.

v. 17 *please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth*

Exodus 20:24 *An altar of earth you shall make for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.*

1. You lift up Jesus by giving Him exclusive worship.

v. 17 *from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD*

Exodus 20:3 *You shall have no other gods before me.*

1. You lift up Jesus by worshipping Him in hard places.

v. 18 *may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon*

Have you responded to the freeness of God’s grace?

Isaiah 55:1 *Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*

* On Sundays, how do you make worship more than just singing?
* Can you make worshipping God your first priority without making Sunday worship services your first priority? Why/why not?
* How do you lift up Jesus during the rest of the week?
* Where do you most need help in applying this passage?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 2 Kings 5:20-27

Notes