

Final Edit

In our never satisfied world our souls hunger for more and it's tempting to reach for the wrong food to satisfy our needs Thankfully Jesus is the bread of life who offers us himself through the life giving and sustainable Feast of Scripture In Help for the Hungry Soul Kristen Wetherill offers eight encouragements to spur our appetite for God's Word Through searching questions practical ideas and moving testimonies readers will uncover how it is possible to treasure God's Word For those feeling discouraged or guilty about a waning desire for scripture Wetherill will spark excitement in their spiritual life ultimately encouraging them to put God and His Word at the center of it all Check out Help for the Hungry Soul today wherever books are sold or visit crossway.org/slash-plus to find out how you can get 30 off with a free Crossway Plus membership[00:01:00]

Krystal: Hey everybody and welcome back to the Daily Grace podcast This is Crystal and I'm joined as always by my friend and co host Shelby Hey Shelby Hey glad to be

Episode 248: back

Shelby: with

Krystal: you Yeah Now does it feel new Does it feel

Shelby: fresh and exciting Something feels Something's different Something feels just like super chill and cool Yeah

Krystal: Yeah And that's our intro Yeah It is fun It is new It's something we've thought a lot about We're excited And with that we have a lot of new [00:02:00] things coming but it's going to be the same podcast It's going to be theologically rich and accessible content but we are super excited for what's to come So we'll give a little bit of a sneak peek at the end of the episode so stay tuned for that But first we have to talk about our favorite things So this is something we do at the top of every episode something we are loving and using lately So Shelby what's your favorite thing this week

Shelby: My favorite thing is a brand new resource that we just launched from the Daily Grace Co really recently And it is called Gospel at Home Magazine Equipping Parents to Make Disciples And this magazine really we made because we saw a huge need within our community We saw a lot of people

saying Hey can you help me disciple my kids Can you help me do it long term And can it not cost a lot And so we spent a lot of time brainstorming what could that look like and we ended up deciding on doing a quarterly magazine and in this quarterly magazine we give you tons of practical tips and [00:03:00] tools We also give you a quarterly bible reading and memorization plan that you can do with your kids We have articles specific to toddlers We have articles It's specific to teenagers We really just tried to make this a magazine that will equip parents to make disciples in their homes So also I think it's on sale for like 9 an issue and you can subscribe You can get it automatically sent to you each quarter I really cannot describe how much rich content is in this magazine and how beneficial it would be to spend the nine bucks on this each

Krystal: quarter And it's super interactive which is what I love You know there's a lot of magazines you'll read and you sit down and then you never come back to it This is something that's going to equip you and something you can come back and use There's things that you can tear out and things you can use with your kids I know we say this about everything but it's beautiful Yeah It is so well done Shout out Stephen I mean he is so gifted Yes I'm sure he's listening But if you are Stephen [00:04:00] you're amazing Okay my favorite thing I'm going to shift gears I was going to talk about an app which I will probably talk about at some point But I will actually say our listeners is my favorite thing this

Shelby: week I feel misty eyed

Krystal: I know I'm going to keep it I'm going to I'm going to hold it together I got a really sweet message this morning We we have a lot of people that reach out and just encourage and and share with us just things Florida is teaching them but I had Someone messaged me today Her name is Elizabeth and to share what the Lord is doing in her life through the podcast through the year in the Bible podcast as well Um and she just was really encouraging and it's just like such a joy for us to see how God is using our like Feeble words to encourage others and just seeing how God uses us But then also uses other people to speak into us as well And so I just feel like our listeners are amazing and anytime we get to meet them in person or over Instagram It's just such a joy So my listeners are

Shelby: Oh my [00:05:00] goodness Yeah that's a good one Wow What a great note to start off on here Well let's get into our topic for today And today we are gonna talk about grace crystal Question Do you think that grace is the most talked about quote unquote topic in Christianity

Krystal: Ooh I would say yes but maybe not to the depth in which we would like it to be talked

Shelby: about Bingo Okay you did

such a about Grace so much so why would we have a whole episode about it You might be thinking okay been there heard there you're not gonna tell me anything I don't know and so sometimes I think we just need a reminder we need to go back and really dig in deep and realize what grace is And that's what we're going to try to do today and we didn't want to go to like some of the typical passages that we hear with grace because we think we probably heard those taught a [00:06:00] lot So we actually landed on an Old Testament passage Isaiah 61 that we're going to kind of walk through And one of the reasons we landed on it is this is the passage When I first feel like I really understood grace when somebody was teaching through this I had heard grace taught so many times but this was a huge lightbulb moment for me And so I pray that it might be that for some of our listeners As well but Crystal do you ever feel like the doctrine of grace has just become kind of like commonplace to you

Krystal: I feel like grace is one of those terms and concepts like again it's talked about a lot but I think we talk about it without ever really considering the weight or the depth of really what it is that we're referring to What is it that we're talking about It's almost like the word gospel you know becomes this like buzzword or Christianese that we just kind of throw in there whether it's in conversation or in our prayers We don't really like Really stop to think what is it that I'm talking about What is it that I have benefited so greatly from it just kind of gets lost I think with everything

Shelby: else [00:07:00] Yeah I would agree with that completely And so that's the reason I think we should start this conversation by defining what grace is and you know You might think it's silly to do that but like you just said the number of Christians that I talked to who don't know how to define these really simple terms like gospel or grace It's it's a lot you know it's really an epidemic I think within the American church And so would you just want to start by defining grace for us Crystal

Krystal: Yeah okay Well I had like four definitions and I I whittled it down to two for the sake of Burkhoﬀ has a systematic theology text and he defines grace as the free bestowal of kindness on one who has no claim to it which I thought that was really good Can you

Shelby: say that again Wait just say

Krystal: it one more time grace is the free bestowal of kindness on one who has no claim to it So good and then J Adams he's really influential in the biblical counseling world He founded CCEF He has a really good way of looking at grace And he [00:08:00] says There's only two ways that we see it in scripture One is kind of how Louis Burkhoﬀ has defined it It is you know the unmerited favor that God mercifully shows upon guilty sinners He also talks about it as referring to the enabling work of the Holy Spirit who lives within us as believers And so he has this quote he says it is in effect the help he gives to them to do God's will So I think that's such a good reminder for us to see grace as yes the unmerited favor that we do not deserve that we could not earn but it's also the work of God within us by His Spirit

Shelby: Okay that was so good I hope that already people are like yeah I haven't thought about grace that way in a while As we kind of but this is just the start We have so much more to talk about So we're going to get into Isaiah 61 I feel like sometimes Isaiah is viewed as a big scary book of prophecy I mean it can be at times I mean 66 years old There's chapters and there's a [00:09:00] lot going on There's creatures and things in the air and just all kinds of stuff We won't talk about that We're not going to talk about all of that today but I just want to give you just a tiny bit of context as we enter into chapter 61 If you listen to any of our episodes on how to read the Bible you know we're huge on context And so we're going to follow we're going to practice what we preach right So Isaiah was a prophet to Israel in a time when Israel's rebellion against God was a and he warned them that if they did not turn from their sin in their idol worship that they would suffer war and exile ultimately And Israel didn't turn from their sin and so they did receive just that a punishment from God war and exile so Israel was attacked by the Babylonians They were taken captive and exiled far from their home I think even those terms like we hear exile a lot you know like Oh yeah whatever They were exiled they were taken captive and forcibly [00:10:00] moved a great distance to a place they did not know where they did not know the customs or the language or anything Being in exile is not good and it's not fun and so you might be like wait isn't this an episode about grace Why are we talking about judgment yeah I hear you Stick with me so everything that I just described is kind of covered in the first 39 chapters of Isaiah So chapters 40 through 66 however are just like drenched in grace and hope and restoration because once the exile is over God promises to restore and comfort and set free the Israelites And so we're looking at chapter 61 it's kind of in this 40 to 66 grace and hope section of the book And I think what's really cool is in chapter 48 have you heard this verse It's super popular and it says something like God says I'm doing a new thing Do you not perceive it Now it springs up I think what's so cool that's in chapter 48 of Isaiah is that even after the Israelites return from exile they're still rebellious So they've had this huge consequence [00:11:00] and yet they're still rebelling against God And so God

says hey I see your rebellion But this time instead of punishing you for it I'm going to do a new thing And then in chapter 49 the very next chapter there's a suffering servant who is introduced And this suffering servant will come and serve God's people will ultimately give his life for God's people but doesn't stay dead but comes back to life And so the new thing that God is doing is Grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ And so that's kind of like laying the groundwork for what we're going to see in Isaiah 61 here Isaiah 61 is maybe my favorite chapter in Isaiah I know Me too It's unbelievably beautiful and we're really excited to break it down for you So let's start with like verses one through three of that chapter Would you want to walk us through those Crystal Yeah I'm actually

Krystal: going to read it in the NIV translation And so starting in verse one the spirit of the sovereign Lord is on me because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted [00:12:00] to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn and provide it for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes the oil of joy instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair They will be called Oaks of Righteousness a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor I mean we read through several passages in planning this episode and we kept coming back to this one It's just so rich and this is actually this might be familiar to you even if you haven't read Isaiah You may recognize some of the language because Jesus actually reads these first two verses in Luke 4 he's reading it aloud to confirm his messianic ministry probably a little controversial to those that are hearing it He is the one fulfilling this but he was really showing that he has come to fulfill the promises of scripture for a coming redeemer And I think too it's a good reminder as we're reading this to acknowledge the emphasis given in any particular passage [00:13:00] So going back to context for us to understand is this about me Is this about the Lord what is the emphasis here And so here we see the emphasis being on the work of the Lord that culminates in a display of his glory for all the world to see See and so as we consider the exiles as we consider the rebellion it makes this passage so sweet and so beautiful So his work here is his mission right It is you see these two sentences so to proclaim the good news of the poor to bind up the brokenhearted to proclaim freedom You see all of these different things that he has come to do in the Messiah's mission here is one of transformational Grace I read this quote Dr John Oswald he is a leading scholar in Isaiah He's written so many commentaries on this book and he had this phrase that I read it Several times as I was sitting and he says this he will make of his people what they cannot make of themselves And so when we see in verse 3 that Israel's called oaks of righteousness [00:14:00] We know based on context it is not because of their good works and their behavior they have been in rebellion And they have been

exiled for it but we remember that what it says here is that they were planted By the Lord it was his work and they served to glorify him to display his splendor So again it's not their own righteousness but the righteousness of God which we'll get into a little bit later as we dig into this

Shelby: text man two things you said that were so so good You said the Messiah's mission is one of transformational grace I think If we can encourage anyone to just go a little bit deeper in this like doctrine of grace grace isn't just like a super cool thing It's transformational in every way And so that's what we see in this passage And then that last thing he will make of his people what they cannot make of themselves Grace transforms us in a way that literally nothing else could and that's what makes it just so incredibly precious and beautiful Okay let's look at verses four through [00:15:00] seven You might be like how long is this chapter I'm not gonna go through it I think it's like 10 or 11 verses We're gonna stop in verse 7 but let me read verses 4 through 7 really quick It says they will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated They will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations Strangers will shepherd your flocks Foreigners will work your fields and vineyards and you will be called priests of the Lord and you'll be named ministers of our God and you will feed on the wealth of nations And in their riches you will boast Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion And instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance And so you will inherit a double portion in your land and everlasting joy will be yours So I mean just reading through that it sounds really encouraging We heard a lot like rebuild renew restore words like that But I think just Knowing the context we can even dig in a little deeper there And so we heard these terms rebuild the ancient ruins restore the [00:16:00] former devastation So remember the context like literally the temple Jerusalem the walls that protected the city like everything has been destroyed when the Babylonians came and took them into exile And so physically we're gonna see this happen If you read the books of Ezra and Nehemiah At the Daily Grace School we have a fantastic study on the book of Nehemiah I mean just really amazing It's called Arise You should go check it out if you want to learn more about this But they you know physically rebuild the city the walls and the temples There's all sorts of struggles there We see God's grace in that but this is actually a picture of not only what would physically happen then but what happens In God's people in the church even moving forward one of the scholars that I was reading Um on this says that these verses picture the mission of the church now unfolding for 20 centuries to rebuild the new Jerusalem living stone by living stone quarried from [00:17:00] Satan's dark kingdom And so these living stones These are believers These are people who are in Christ And so we see that this is being renewed and restored as the people come to know the Lord and as people are built up in their faith and

as they share the gospel and more people are coming to the Lord And so as opposed to like this destruction of war and exile we see 20 centuries now

And so we see this just amazing unfolding of grace and pouring out of grace And then if we move on in that passage it talks about us being priests and ministers Now remember the Israelites were built by the Spirit of God some of them a Levites were appointed as priests but they weren't doing a great job of being priests They were even you know worshipping idols in the temples and all sorts of terrible stuff was happening But God says like hey through my spirit Indwelling you and empowering you you will be priests and ministers as opposed to people who have hearts that are rebellious [00:18:00] to me and who I separate from myself And so we see so much restoration in this And then in that final little section there it says in place of your shame you will have a double portion in place of disgrace They will rejoice over their share So they will possess double in their land in eternal joy will be theirs So I think this double portion is talking about inheritance So in the old Testament we see that the firstborn usually gets a double portion of their father's inheritance the exiles there was no inheritance to be had or to be given There was only disgrace for the generations but under God's grace and in Christ he says Hey you actually have an inheritance You have the inheritance of the firstborn You have a double portion So those in Christ are not disgraced but have a rich inheritance which he then says is eternal joy It's eternity with him And so you can imagine the people who have experienced such destruction reading these words and being [00:19:00] just literally in awe of the way that God can transform through his grace

Krystal: That's what I kept thinking of As I was hearing you read those verses I just thought me and those original hearers that have walked through Such tragedy so much heartache but also recognizing so much of it at their own hand like their own sin causing this in hearing But God is still going to restore He's going to allow you to rebuild Like just the hope that comes from that so I love that And I think we can read a passage maybe like this that feels stuck in time this feels like this is spoken to a very specific audience and it is You know there is a specific audience But what does this mean for us today What is the principle that we can draw mean I think there is so much I think the thing that I keep coming back to is that we are no longer defined by our sin and by our shame That for us in Christ has been paid on the cross Mm-hmm And so to recognize that Jesus satisfies the wrath of God on our behalf through his [00:20:00] perfect sacrificial death I mean what joy is there to be found in that but often we just Forget that we forget the price has been paid on our behalf and so I think meditating on that truth resting in his grace reminds us too that we are freed from the bondage of things that so easily hold us down And it's a lot of things that were mentioned you know disgrace and shame and knowing that

Jesus bore that on our behalf so that we could be given the righteousness of God Now I think when we talk about righteousness of God we might often hear the term imputed righteousness and so imputed means assigned or given So Martin Luther there's a couple ways that I've heard it said but Martin Luther is known for calling it like the great exchange or the glorious exchange And so he exchanged our sin for his righteousness So Christ took on our sin that was rightfully ours Like we committed that sin He gave us his righteousness and that is rightfully his And when we think about that [00:21:00] What belongs to Christ now belongs to us I mean what a glorious thought is not by our own doing just like it was for Israel This was not their own doing It was the grace of God in their lives And I think that's you know Ephesians two is a passage that we talked about in preparation for this versus eight and nine You know we are saved by grace through faith and it's not of ourselves It is a gift from God and it's not by work so that we cannot post And so when we think about the grace of God it should change how we live It should change how we serve others It should change how we work how we parent But we often believe the lie that we are stuck in being captives being prisoners in despair shame disgrace Those things listed in Isaiah 61 that has been released of its power by the grace of God and through the blood of Christ So it points us to the reality that we have been set free

Shelby: Yeah I think that is so Good and sometimes we need You know I think that's [00:22:00] another phrase that we hear a lot of times like you have been set free in Christ But like what does that really mean And so what I love about this passage is it like almost illustrates and brings to life like what that looks like Okay I'm gonna read a quote talking about like hey how do we actually apply this It's from Andrew Davis and he has a great commentary on Isaiah We've talked about this commentary series before but It's exalting Jesus and Isaiah They have almost every book of the Bible I think at this point Um but here's what he says is kind of like the takeaway and I couldn't have said it better than him so I'm just gonna share his words He says We are led to meditate on God's amazing grace to such degraded sinners as we were We were enslaved through our own willful rebellion I think when we hear words like captives prisoners shame disgrace we think of being victims Um But we actually weren't And so he goes on to say the ashes of disgrace on us were well earned We were not merely victims of sin and Satan's [00:23:00] oppression We were oppressors ourselves But God in the richness of his mercy and love toward us has given us a crown oil and rich garments instead of our Chains stench and rags And so to me it's remembering like hey all of those things that we talked about that have been transformed due to grace like I earned those rightfully and like you just said But yet in Christ I've been given Grace and I don't think that I'll ever get over that you know like how can you ever get over a truth like that And just to kind of like sum up here I wanted to compare kind of like the before and after of

grace in this passage And so I just like pulled out terms so before like God's grace We saw that the Israelites were poor brokenhearted that they were captives prisoners They were in mourning There was ashes on their heads They were in despair They lived in ruined cities They were disgraced mocked robbed and experienced [00:24:00] injustice And yet on the other side of grace and I love that uh the first thing it says is that it's he comes to bring good news to the captives and like the good news is the gospel right So on the other side of the gospel there's healing liberty freedom There's also a coming day where the Lord's favor will come for those who are in Christ but also God's judgment for those who are not in Christ And so maybe that's a moment for you to pause in this episode and ask like Hey am I saved Have I believed in Christ And had faith in him as my savior to forgive me of my sin Um also on the other side of grace there's comfort for those who mourn There is a crown on our heads instead of ashes There's oil to anoint us and there's splendid clothes clothes of salvation instead of ashes And so just to say it again like grace transforms and we see that in this passage Yeah

Krystal: I love too that you mentioned before that we talk about being set free So we can look at [00:25:00] this list and recognize what we've been set free from but then also we've been set free to live out the gospel to extend the grace that we have been given And so you know we've often thought about grace maybe in imperfect ways or incomplete ways And so As we talk about grace we might think well if I sin it's okay God will forgive me Like there's grace Like we often can kind of maybe not say those words aloud but we might feel that in our heart Like it's not that big deal There's grace Well that's for us a license Like we're creating a license to sin out of God's grace right Like we're we're abusing that grace knowing that he'll forgive us We might think on the opposite side Well I have to earn this Like I feel like I have to earn my grace Um I've sinned I can't forgive myself You know I all we will beat ourselves up and feel like that we have to pay penance for something that Christ has already paid And so in that situation we're acting as if we are a better judge than God If God has [00:26:00] exited grace through Christ why wouldn't we receive that Why wouldn't we show that to others And so I think we continually come back to the fact that Grace is a gift from God We cannot earn it It is freely given in Christ and it should humble us So we're set free from our sin but we're set free to something greater a greater story in the gospel to Live it out to proclaim the good news to others to really be on mission with Christ in the same ways And so I just I've appreciated getting to really see sit in this topic of grace because you know there are things that we'll talk about and it's like how do you define it Well it's just it's grace It's like it just is what it is So to be able to really put words to it define it see it in scripture it makes it come alive and it makes it really applicable because We kind of have handles to hold on to versus it just being a term that we throw out

Shelby: Yeah Exactly You know in this last few minutes here I think we just want to tie this into our podcast Our [00:27:00] podcast got a little facelift a little refresh The content is not changing at all um but I think we wanted to take this opportunity You know we're like Hey we're adding new music Can we just take an opportunity to reaffirm like what we're all about on this podcast And so Crystal how would you say that this topic Grace obviously this is the daily Grace podcast How would you say that everything we've talked about today ties into kind of what we're trying to do on the podcast

Krystal: here Yeah I think any topic we come across in our podcast acknowledges Our need for grace every day every single day is you know anything we say anything we do cannot be done in our own strength right And so we rely on the grace of God So even as we think about the second aspect of how we see grace in scripture Peter exhorts his readers at the end of his second letter to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ So it's kind of that idea of grace applied the spirit at work in us um [00:28:00] enabling us to do the work of the Father And so we're hoping that any topic we cover whether it feels very applicable to what we're going through at that moment or maybe something that you have gone through or you haven't gone through yet We want these conversations to serve your affections for Jesus to deepen your understanding of who he is and what he's accomplished for you through his life death resurrection and ascension And so to that end we have been prayerfully planning some really fun episodes even some hard ones I think even as we were kind of planning it we're like Oh we're a little

Shelby: nervous aren't we Yeah To walk into some of these topics because they're hard but they They need to be addressed Yeah

Krystal: And so I think for us even to be able to be stretched and to grow as we dig in and to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord like we're going to live this out as well And so we are just so thankful that part of our job at the Daily Grace Co is you know creating theologically rich and accessible resources and the podcast being one of them Like what a [00:29:00] joy So I just thought it might be fun for us to talk about maybe one or two episodes that are coming up as a sneak peek Okay Do you want to go first or do you want me to Um I think

Shelby: I'll go first you can think of little series that's coming out after this episode is going to be about women And um you know Women in our roles and our place is something that's widely debated in the Christian world and We're not here to take a stance or sides on that But we want to help you think well When everyone is talking about you and what you can and can't do and shouldn't shouldn't do in the church in your home In work and we also you

know just want to discuss like women in the Bible um because I think that's a really good starting place So I I think those episodes are going to be challenging but we really hope that they serve you well and almost create like [00:30:00] a safe space to talk through some really hard things that we've seen discussed um on a wide scale within Christianity lately

Krystal: Yeah absolutely I'm excited to to bring in maybe some other women who have written on this spoken on this to speak into it as well because we just appreciate their their wisdom I think an episode I'm really excited about personally Because I know I need to grow in this is an episode on what to do when we feel misunderstood There's just something about feeling misunderstood for me that just this the ugly sin of pride rears its you know head And so for me to even think through a gospel lens on you know being Mr I mean The person of Jesus he was very misunderstood and what an example to look at So I'm excited to be able to dig into that a little bit more and just see like how does that apply in those moments when we feel like we're

Shelby: not being heard Yeah And that's even part of a bigger series too [00:31:00] that's going to be incredible We're really excited We're so excited about everything that's coming up Thanks so much for

Krystal: joining us on the Daily Grace podcast We look forward to having another conversation with you next week We are starting a really fun series like Shelby mentioned about women It's just going to be Such a joy until then join us over on Instagram at Daily Grace Podcast And if you enjoyed this episode would you just leave us a review We love just seeing how God is using this podcast and Daily Grace co resources in your life And we will see you next time Goodbye[00:32:00] [00:33:00]