

Introduction: The apostle John says something profoundly important about how the eternal Word of God, the second Person of the Trinity, came to earth to live as a human among us: He came 'full of Grace and Truth' (John 1:14). Let us think about these qualities the Son of God has to the full. *** First, He is full of Grace. His nature is to give to everyone good things beyond what any person deserves. Many people are lacking in grace, and no one is full of grace. *** Second, He is full of Truth. He can be trusted to always speak and do what is totally right and correct. John also said that at the last Passover Jesus said: 'I AM ... the Truth' (John 14:6). Many people 'shade' the truth, or lie, as a defense mechanism. No one is always truthful, sometimes in ignorance or fear. *** The order of these qualities is important. Because everyone suspects the truth of his or her character flaws, leading with Truth can be painful and cause people to shut down or turn away. Grace is different because it is so rare. Grace is hard to receive for people in merit-based cultures, but when a good gift is given in love, many people will be more likely to hear and receive Truth. The Good News of Jesus is this Truth: because God has great love for broken humanity, His Son willingly sacrificed His life so whoever will receive by faith both Him and what He did, may be made whole, little-by-little, day-by-day, IN Him as a gift of His Grace and then live each day in grateful obedience to Him. *** And, as people have the image of God restored in them, part of that image is to be the Grace and Truth of Jesus to their neighbors. *** In the two incidents from David's life we are considering, we see the results of the grace he showed to Saul and Nabal. When Saul realizes how gracious David was to him he repents and confesses David will be king over Israel. On the other hand, after David and his men are gracious to Nabal's shepherds, David sent messengers to Nabal requesting some food. Nabal rebuffed David and sent nothing to him. *** The stage is now set to go deeper into the Christ-like qualities of Grace and Truth in people's lives.

I. Saul says David is more righteous than him because he showed him grace, he knows Yahweh will make David king, and he asks David to swear to keep his descendants from harm; then, Samuel dies. (1 Samuel 24:16-22 & 25:1)

- A. Saul confesses that his son-in-law is more righteous than him because David showed Saul unmerited grace; and, Saul acknowledges Yahweh's will, spoken through Samuel, that David will be king. (*Verses 16-20*)
1. ... Saul said ... my son David? Then Saul lifted his voice and wept ... righteous thee than me, because thou repaid me good, and I repaid thee evil. (*Verses 16-17*)
Confession: Saul tearfully calls David son(-in-law), more righteous because he repaid evil with good.
 2. Thou told me thou did good to me when Yahweh dealt me in thy hand, not thou slew me. (*Verse 18*)
You did NOT kill me: Saul threw a spear at David to kill him and pursued him to death for months.
 3. For man finds his enemy and let him go in a good way, Yahweh will repay thee with good for what thou did to me. (*Verse 19*)
Yahweh will repay good: Saul knows few men would have grace to not inflict harm on him. Because David repaid Saul's evil with grace Saul is confident Yahweh will do good to David.

It is good to show grace to others

4. Now, behold! I know thou will surely rule and the kingdom of Israel will be established in thee. (*Verse 20*)
Finally: After much stubborn resistance, Saul acknowledges God's will for David and him as spoken through God's prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 15:26; 16:11-13).

Application: We must respond to David's example of grace to Saul to be moved to continually seek the Holy Spirit to use us to show the Grace of Jesus to our neighbors, rather than being aloof or even retaliating because our Christ-like response may bring about a change in our neighbor.

- B. Saul requests David to swear an oath to him, same as his second covenant with Jonathan, concerning safety for his descendants, Saul leaves in peace; then Samuel dies. (*1 Samuel 24:21-22 & 25:1*)
1. Now, swear to me by Yahweh, thou will not cut off my descendants and not destroy my name from my father's house. (*1 Samuel 24:21*)
Saul's request: Saul's request of David is what Jonathan and David agreed by their covenant renewal (1 Samuel 20:14-17). Jonathan's line extended to the returning remnant (1 Chronicles 9:39-44).
 2. David swore to Saul who went home; David and his men went up to the fortress. (*1 Samuel 24:22*)
David's word: David gave his word to Saul, as he had to Jonathan. Saul repays David's grace to him by leaving him in peace.

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3. Then Samuel died and all Israel gathered together to lament and bury him; David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran. (*1 Samuel 25:1*)
Samuel dies: Samuel was the first great prophet to kings in Israel, influencing all the prophets who came after him.
David back to wilderness: Paran was filled with caves. It was where the exodus generation wandered for forty years and died.

II. David and his men act graciously towards the shepherds of a man with three thousand sheep, then when David requests food, he is rebuffed; a Levite declares in a psalm that Yahweh blesses His king for acting graciously.

(*1 Samuel 25:2-12; Psalm 45:1-5*)

- A. David goes to where a great man had three thousand sheep; David sends ten young men to inform Nabal that David's men were good to his shepherds and asks for food; he rebuffs David. (*1 Samuel 25:2-12*)
1. A great man worked in Carmel (of Moan) having three thousand sheep and one thousand goats; he was shearing his sheep; his name: Nabal, wife: Abigail; she of good wisdom and beautiful form; he was obstinate and evil doing, of Caleb (dog). (*Verses 2-3*)

David: Paran bounded Moan, so it was inevitable David would encounter Nabal and Abigail.

Nabal and Abigail: Their names fit them: 'fool' and 'my father: joy'. They are an example of opposites attracting.

- David heard Nabal was shearing his sheep; he sent ten young men to go to Nabal and ask in his name in peace. (*Verses 4-5*)

David to Nabal: After David's men were near Nabal's shepherds for a time, he sends him messengers.

- Say to Nabal: Life and peace to thee, and peace to thy family, and peace to all yours; I heard thou have shearers, and thy shepherds we did not harm and they missed nothing the whole time. (*Verses 6-7*)

Message: Life and peace to you and yours Nabal! We were with your shepherds until shearing was done, and we showed them grace by being good to them.

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- Ask thy young men, they will tell thee; then let (my) young men find grace, for on a good day we come; give, we pray, what thou have to thy servants. (*Verse 8*)

Truth: Nabal's men can verify the gracious protection they received; please, return grace for grace.

- When David's young men came, they said all David's words to Nabal, then waited. (*Verse 9*)

To Nabal: They gave David's message to this obstinate, evil-acting man. Only his wife and the Author know how he will respond.

- Nabal answered: Who is David? Today there are many servants breaking away from their master; (y'all ask) I take my bread, water and meat (freshly) slaughtered for my shearers and give to men from where I do not know? (*Verses 10-11*)

Nabal rebuffs David: Calling David a rebel and his men nobodies, Nabal says he will only feed his workers who earned the food.

- Then David's men turned to their way, returned, came and told him all the words. (*Verse 12*)

Report to David: Nabal's rejection of his men had to hurt David. What will he do?

Application: We will encounter obstinate evil-doing fools, so we must understand and accept that some people to whom we show God's grace IN Jesus will reject our acts of grace; and we should grieve over the truth our neighbor is rejecting God.

- A Levite composes a Psalm declaring Yahweh blesses His king who acts graciously; then the king is urged to also act in humble wisdom and his enemies will fall. (*Psalm 45:1-5*)

Header: This psalm was not written by David. It is one of eleven 'sons of Korah' psalms. They were not singers, but temple guards. It is a love song and exhortation to David's son Solomon.

- My heart overflowed with a good word / I (am) expressing my works to the king / my tongue the stylus of a skilled scribe. (*Verse 1*)

Overflowing heart: This anonymous songwriter says all the words of his carefully crafted work come from his overflowing heart.

- Thou (are) more beautiful than the sons of men (*adam*) / has been poured grace to thy lips / therefore God has blessed thee forever. (*Verse 2*)

Grace and blessing: All Solomon's words are because of God's grace given as a blessing to him, and all reading his three Bible books (1 Kings 3:1-15).

Gracious kings are blessed by God

- Gird thy sword on thy thigh, mighty man / (with) thy glory and thy splendor // (in) thy splendor, thou must prosper and ride forth for truth / humility and righteousness will instruct thee to be fearing (God). (*Verses 3- 4*)

Prosperity and truth: After being exhorted to fight to defend his people, Solomon is commanded to always go out in God's prosperity and truth.

Humility and righteousness: He is encouraged to be humbly righteous, in other words to receive these through faithful obedience to the God who graciously gave him wisdom.

Learn fear of Yahweh: The combination of God's gracious gifts of humility and righteousness will instruct king Solomon, and everyone, to a proper fear of God. This means we should never forget how wonderfully awesome God is!

- Thy arrows are sharp / peoples will fall under thee / (thy arrows) in the heart of the enemies of the king. (*Verse 5*)

Enemies will fall: When Solomon has done all of this in faith, God will eventually cause Solomon's enemies and His people's enemies to fall.

Application: Let us all rejoice that Jesus is the God-Man who is now the resurrected King of everything.

And let us praise Him by fully trusting in Him and serving Him as He directs us.

Conclusion: Saul says David is more righteous than him because he showed him grace and he knows Yahweh will make David king. He asks David to swear to keep his descendants from harm. Samuel dies. David and his men act graciously towards the shepherds of a man with three thousand sheep. When David requests food, he is rebuffed.

A Levite declares in a psalm that Yahweh blesses His king for acting graciously.

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