

Better (Hebrews)

Sermon Questions | 06.07.15

Opener

Consider Pete's story about Babette and the General. Think about the several descriptors of church culture that come from it:

- Rigid, pious, and lifelessly attending to ritual
- Repressing joy as though it were a sinful indulgence
- People holding grudges due to past offenses
- Lavishly embracing grace
- Selflessly loving those around you

Have you been a part of church cultures like any of these in the past?

Read

Hebrews 12:14-29

Deuteronomy 29:18

Exodus 19:12

Deuteronomy 4:11-13

Engaging with God in a Group

Share the feelings and thoughts about what comes to mind after reading Hebrews 12:14-29.

In the past, how have you thought about the two mountains (Mt. Sinai & Mt. Zion)?
"Grace is free. No strings attached. To be enjoyed by all."

What concerns have you had about grace? What concerns about grace have others expressed to you? What concerns about the law have you had? What concerns about grace have others have expressed to you?

Read Hebrews 12:15 and Deuteronomy 29:18. After hearing this message, do you think you have missed grace either in the past or currently? What alerted you to the fact you were missing it?

People in the church miss grace for many reasons including:

- Instant gratification—lifestyle, wealth, pleasures
- Covenant confusion – we miss God’s grace because we embrace law instead of grace (See Hebrews 12:18-21). Sinai represents the Old Mosaic covenant. Read Exodus 19:12 and Deuteronomy 4:11-13. Describe your impression of God from these Scripture passages. How does this compare with your understanding of God the Father?
- Adamant Rejection—when the Holy Spirit calls you, failing to respond.

For which of these three reasons are you tempted to miss God’s grace?

What is your reaction to the idea that the relationship with God is a party and, even better, a party that includes exultation, warmth, openness, acceptance, and relationship?

In the sermon, Pete said, “If you live in fear of God then you are missing God’s grace. When you own his grace, you recognize that Christ has taken all the judgment you deserve on the cross.” Contrast this with your understanding now of the fear of God.

Engaging with God Alone

You are one of two people: either you are missing God’s grace or giving God’s grace. which are you?

“Those who reject the new covenant reject grace and embrace judgment.” - George Guthrie

“See to it that no one misses the Grace of God” - Bent Tree Vision

If you are interested in further supplemental study, the referenced book from Pete’s message is *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey.

Closing thoughts and prayer

Lord, please grant us the privilege of seeing that no one misses your grace.