



Finding Grace: Hebrews 12v7-17

How attractive do you find the idea of holiness?

What are the foundations for grasping what holiness is? Jesus is good! And he wants to free us by his grace from the misery and darkness of sin.

1) Find Grace (12v15-17)

The key idea for us this morning comes in v15: make sure, individually and together, that no one misses out on the grace of God! See to it that each and every person is receiving and living in the grace of Christ. God's grace is his kindness and generosity, which reaches out to the helpless and needy. Grace happens in friendship—you can't experience grace without experiencing its Giver. The "bitter root" in v15 is most likely a reference to Deuteronomy 29v18: we fail to find grace and forgiveness when we resist relationship with Jesus, turn away from the Lord and attach our hearts elsewhere.

One way to not receive God's grace is to want stuff from God but not want his personal involvement in our lives and hearts. Nor can we want the grace of God without wanting the Spirit of grace himself (10v29). Esau (12v16-17) was ruled by an appetite for stuff but not for God himself. It is a warning not to resist the kind heart of the Lord that, in the end, it was too late for Esau to be able to repent.

Just as an older brother is full of compassion and desires the healing of a beloved younger brother with a terrible disease, so Jesus' heart of grace is drawn out to us in our sin. Jesus wants us to approach his throne of grace when we fall down (4v14-16). Wonderfully, Exodus 34v6-7 describes the heart of the Lord who made the universe. His heart is compassionate and gracious and sides with you against your sin as you trust his saving goodness.

See to it that nobody lacks this grace of God, this Jesus!

2) Submit to the Father (12v7-14)

This heart of Jesus we're seeing is the heart of holiness. We gaze on this grace and it melts our hearts of stone. God disciplines and trains us through this hard race for our good, as we live by faith in Jesus, so that we may share in his heart and holiness (v10). *How many things can you list from these verses that God wants to share with us as we run the race of faith?*

God wants us to submit and live! Putting our lives completely in the Father's kind hands, with holy vulnerability as Abraham did, is challenging during hard times. But submitting fully during these times, as we trust his goodness and kindness, is a means of receiving his grace and sharing in his holiness and peace (v9-12).

