What Grace Cost God

Joshua Creel · John 3:14–16

INTRODUCTION

- Our theme for this month has been grace. And specifically, we've been titling this Grace Isn't Cheap.
- This morning we want to look, begin looking at the costly nature of that grace. And we're emphasizing today what grace costs God.

1 Parallels Between the Serpent and the Son

Numbers 21:5–9; John 3:14; Romans 8:3

- Jesus here draws a parallel between the serpent that Moses lifted up in the wilderness.
- The first parallel is the problem. Why is it that the serpents were coming into the camp? Because Israel continually sinned against their God.
- The other parallel is the consequence of sin. The consequence of Israel was many died because of their sin.
- He came, as Paul says in Romans chapter 8 and verse 3, he came in the likeness of sinful flesh.

2 Only the Son Was a Sacrifice

Leviticus 1:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:19

- Only the Son was a sacrifice. The serpent wasn't a sacrifice at all.
- Only that which was without defect could be accepted before God as a sacrifice.
- He made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.
- We were redeemed with the precious blood as of a lamb, unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

3 Why Must Jesus Be Lifted Up on a Cross?

Genesis 3:15–19; Psalm 22; Isaiah 53:4–6

- The being lifted up, the Son of Man being lifted up, is pointing to the very fact that Jesus would suffer and die on the cross.
- You are now facing an existence separated from me, and that is an existence of pain and suffering.
- When we begin reading the prophecies of the one who was to come, so many of those prophecies also focus on the fact that it would be suffering.
- Surely our griefs he himself bore, and our sorrows he carried.
- Not only must Jesus die, he must suffer.

4 Picture After Picture of Suffering

Mark 14:33–36; Mark 14:50; Mark 15:22–34

- You just read through that account, and you see picture after picture of suffering.

- We read that all left him and fled, every last one of his disciples, and so he must stand his trials alone.
- Jesus experienced not one trial, but as many as six trials, each and every time a picture of injustice.
- He is mocked. Mocked by the very ones that he came to save.
- Jesus cried out with a loud voice, Eloh, Elohim Lama Sabactani, which is translated, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

5 God Gave His Son; Jesus Gave His Life

1 Peter 5:10; John 10:17–18

- God gave him to come and to suffer like none other had suffered or would ever suffer.
- God gave the greatest and the most costly gift that could ever be given. And furthermore, Jesus gave.
- God gave his son. Jesus gave his life. And nothing more costly has ever been given. Grace is not cheap.

6 Whoever Believes Will Have Eternal Life

John 3:14–15

- Moses erecting that fiery serpent among the people required something of the people.
- Indicating that you could reject it.
- So must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes will in him have eternal life.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you accept the greatest gift that could ever be given to you? The very grace of God.**

MY NOTES