



THE STORY OF JONAH

AND GOD'S RELENTLESS GRACE

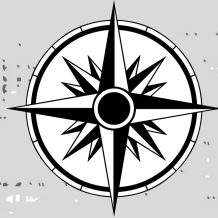


THE STORY OF JONAH





Big Idea:



*The divine grace of God has
given us a catalyst and a
compass for learning how to
extend grace and love to
others in our lives*

“Grace is love that seeks you out when you have nothing to give in return. Grace is love coming at you that has nothing to do with you. Grace is being loved when you are unlovable.... The cliché definition of grace is “unconditional love.”

*Let’s go a little further, though. Grace is a love that has nothing to do with you, the beloved. It has everything and only to do with the lover. Grace is irrational in the sense that it has nothing to do with weights and measures. It has nothing to do with my intrinsic qualities or so-called “gifts” (whatever they may be). It reflects a decision on the part of the giver, the one who loves, in relation to the receiver, the one who is loved, that negates any qualifications the receiver may personally hold.... **Grace is one-way love.**”*

- Paul Zahl

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What's In It For Me

Do we see God's grace through
the lens of,

“What’s in it for me?”

Jeremiah 17:9 *“The heart is deceitful
above all things, and desperately sick;
who can understand it.”*

This is our condition.

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But...

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above all things, and desperately sick;
who can understand it.”*

~~**This is our condition.**~~

But...

The Grace of God knows no condition

“Grace is most needed and
best understood in the midst
of sin, suffering and
brokenness”

-Justin Holcomb





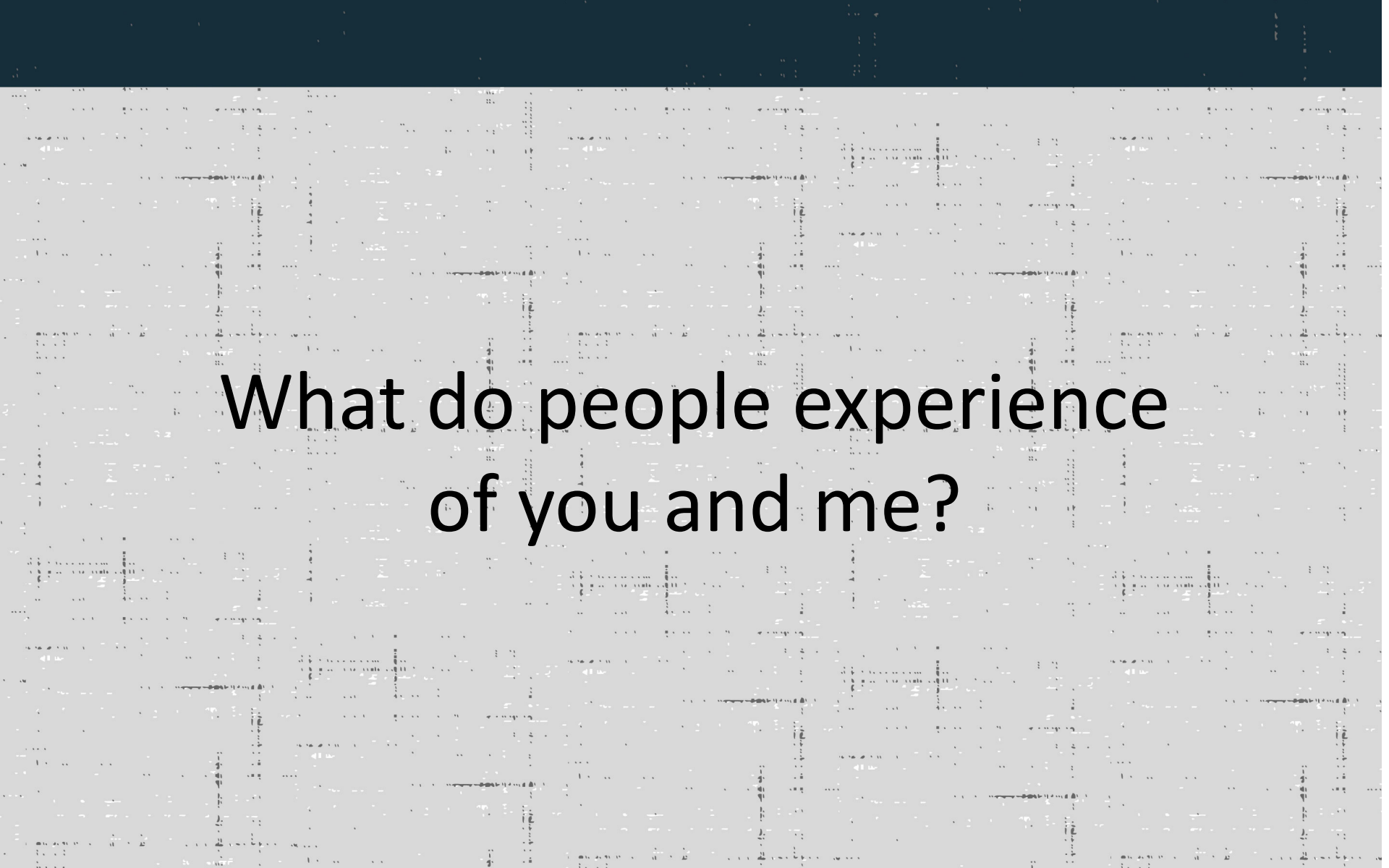
“It’s clear to me that Karma is at the very heart of the universe. I’m absolutely sure of it. And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that “as you sow, so you will reap” stuff. Grace defies reason and logic. Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I’ve done a lot of stupid stuff. But I’d be in big trouble if Karma was going to finally be my judge... *I’m holding out for Grace*. I’m holding out that Jesus took my sins onto the Cross, because I know who I am, and I hope I don’t have to depend on my own religiosity.”

-Bono (Interview with Michka Assayas)

**"Grace" - 2000, from the Album,
"All That You Can't Leave Behind"**

*Grace, she takes the blame
She carries the shame
Removes the stains
It could be her name
Grace, it's the name for a girl
It's also a thought that changed the
world
And when she walks on the street
You can hear the strings
Grace finds goodness in everything.
Grace, she's got the walk,
Not a ramp or on chalk
She's got the time to talk
She travels outside of karma
She travels outside of karma*

*When she goes to work
You can hear her strings
Grace finds beauty in everything.
Grace, she carries a world on her hips
No champagne flute for her lips
No twirls or skips between her
fingertips
She carries a pearl in perfect condition
What once was hurt
What once was friction
What left a mark
No longer stings
Because Grace makes beauty
Out of ugly things.
Grace makes beauty out of ugly things*



What do people experience
of you and me?

Romans 3:23 *“For all have sinned
and fall short of the glory of God”*

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin
is death...”*

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is death...”*

*The divine grace of God has given us a catalyst and
a compass for learning how to extend grace and
love to others in our lives*

How do we love others well?

How do we model God's grace?

**God gives us some basic
instructions....Fruit that is necessary
for one-way love.**

**The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-
control.**

-Galations 5:22-23

God gives us more basic instructions...

Love is....

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

What about at home...?

What about at home...?

What about at work...?

What about at home...?

What about at work...?

**What about my extended
family?**

How do I grow in Grace?

So, therefore... what now?



How do I grow in Grace? So, therefore... what now?

1.) Accept

(My condition, my position, the free gift I am given in spite of those things)

Ephesians 2:8 *“For by Grace you have been saved through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the Gift of God.”*

Hebrews 4:14-16 *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

How we RECEIVE God’s grace matters...

How do I grow in Grace? So, therefore... what now?

2.) Extend

(Our outward reach of love, grace... how our free gift sparks our action, and how those actions impact the lives of people around us)

1 Peter 4:8-10 *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace.”*

What we DO with God’s grace matters...

How do I grow in Grace? So, therefore... what now?

3.) Tell

(Our actions and words share the gospel. Tell of your stories, your pain, your redemption... share the Good News of God's Grace)

Acts 20:24 *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's Grace*

Who we TELL of God's grace matters...

How do I grow in Grace? So, therefore... what now?

Open to accept.....

Committed to extend....

*And **READY** to tell*