

THE UNSETTLING SOLUTION FOR JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING

Week #2: Don't Do The Math

The kingdom of God is characterized by unsettling generosity —the kind of generosity that gives the undeserving what they don't deserve and regardless of how *unright* we've been, makes us right with God. So what do we do when we're faced with this math that doesn't add up? And how do we respond to this unfair, unsettling system that Jesus came to invite us into?

Discussion Questions

1. It's game night. You and your friends are laughing, competing, and having fun. And then...somebody breaks the rules and changes the course of the game. What's your knee-jerk reaction?

- The Judge : "The rules of the game clearly state this. There's really no gray area here."
- The Peacemaker : "It's fine. I know some people play that way. It'll work out."
- The Eye Roller : "Ugh. If I lose because of this, I'm going to be really annoyed."

2. Has there every been a moment when you knew you messed up and hoped someone would treat you like it never happened? Has anyone ever asked for that kind of grace from you? Why is it so unsettling for us to give that kind of grace?

3. Read Luke 19:1-7

What do you think were the mix of emotions Zacchaeus felt when Jesus picked him out of the crowd?

What does the muttering of the crowd show about our natural response to grace?

What do you think the disciples learned about Jesus that day? Is there something here that you can learn about Jesus?

4. Read Matthew 20:1-15

When Jesus told a parable, he was challenging his listeners to look for God and to look for themselves. In this parable of the landowner, find you. Which group or character do you identify with most?

Now find God. What does the parable show us about his kingdom? Why is what we find unsettling?

5. Jesus invites us to see the world and his Father differently. We value fairness. But grace is better than fair. Have you had a more difficult time giving grace, receiving grace, or admitting you need grace? Why?
6. If you started to define grace as undeserved, unearned, unearnable favor, what could change about the way you see yourself and the way you see and treat others?
7. Take time as a group to discuss the words of this prayer and what they mean for each of you. Then pray together and thank God for his unsettling, incomparable grace.

Heavenly Father, I fall short every day.

I need what I don't deserve—
to be forgiven of my sin and restored to you.

I believe Jesus' death on my behalf accomplished both.
I place my faith in him as my Savior and Lord.

Moving Forward

From our perspective, the kingdom of God will always appear upside down. We naturally compare ourselves to standards, but grace doesn't compare. Grace is married to truth and the truth is that we all fall short of God's standard. This week, write "**GRACE > FAIR**" somewhere you'll see it to remind you of what Jesus came to do for you—and for everyone you meet.