



Journey Teaching Outline – EPIC Wk 9: Grace

December 16, 2009

EPIC SERIES RECAP:

The Bible as an epic story involving the whole world...

- It's real, it is happening still, it involves you, and it changes who we are

1. CREATION & INNOCENCE (*Puzzle Piece*):

God has an intended design for life and it's best.

- We saw it in the Garden of Eden in Genesis...
- Beauty and peace - no sin, no pain, no knowledge of evil, no heartache
- Fellowship with God – walking and talking with God in person
- Fellowship with each other – Adam and Eve in a perfect relationship
- Total satisfaction – every need and desire fulfilled in God

This was God's intended design and it was AMAZING.

2. THE CURSE & THE PROMISE (*Puzzle Piece*):

But sin happens; Satan convinces Adam & Eve that they can't TRUST God's rule

- They decide for THEMSELVES what was good or evil, instead of God

Sin ruins everything. Everything changed.

- Adam and Eve are banished from God's presence in the Garden
- Sin carries on through time to us all...death, broken relationships, pain...

The story could have just ended here, but God had a plan to rescue mankind.

God promises rescue.

- God makes an unbreakable promise to Abram to restore life
- Through the nation of Israel, God would rescue mankind

3. THE LAW (*Puzzle Piece*)

Israel, lead by Moses, is given God's law...

The law isn't a bad thing...it makes life BETTER

- Like the Garden, when God is making the rules...life is BEST.

God's law shows us just how holy God is and the holy life He has called us to live.

- AND - God's law restores His rule and His presence

Also in the law, God gave precise directions for worship in the tabernacle

- Why so precise? It symbolized **God's perfection** – HIS HOLINESS
- The tabernacle shows the **separation of Holy God from unholy people.**

But God provided a way to bridge that gap through a system of sacrifices.

- The death of these animals was a temporary payment for sins
- This allowed **limited access** into the holy God's presence

But for the rest of the Old Testament we see this continuing pattern...

- God gives his law, and his people disobey it
- **Example - Story of the golden calf**
- While Moses is up on the mountain receiving God's law...the people make a golden calf to worship!

This cycle of disobedience is repeated through the Old Testament again and again

- Exile – eventually God allows Israel to be completely destroyed by Babylon
- Israel lives again enslaved, because of their disobedience, for the next 70 years

LAST WEEK- The Law Part 3: The Prophets (Dec. 9th)

During all this...God continually sent prophets to return Israel to God's rule

- Warning Israel of the consequences of their sin
- Restoring God's people to Him – calling them to confession & repentance

Nehemiah 9:1-4

On October 31 the people assembled again, and this time they fasted and...separated themselves from all foreigners as they confessed their own sins and the sins of their ancestors. They remained standing in place for three hours while the Book of the Law of the LORD their God was read aloud to them. Then for three more hours they confessed their sins and worshiped the LORD their God.

Last week, we experienced a taste of that returning to God as a sinful generation.

- Recap Brandon's testimony and the videos
- WE ARE LIKE ISRAEL! Called to be a holy generation of God
- But continually, we fail to live the life of obedience

Back to our story...after the Exile, Israel is allowed to return to Jerusalem

- Books of Ezra & Nehemiah and the prophets Haggai and Zachariah
- Israel finally begins to return to God and rebuild Jerusalem

But Israel is still living under the system of the LAW, and waiting for a Savior

- 400 years passes under great persecution for Israel between the OT and NT
- Rome conquers the middle east, a common language now used (Greek)

Israel waits in desperate expectation...This is where our story leaves us when the New Testament begins

TO RECAP THE WHOLE STORY:

- God has an intended design for our lives...and it's good. It's the best.
- Sin ruins everything.
- God promises rescue.
- The law given to Moses begins God's rescue by restoring His presence & rule.
- But the law is not enough...we need a Saviour to rescue us

Finally, we come to the great moment of ultimate rescue...the GRACE of Jesus.

Let's pause here and understand a few keys about Jesus Christ:

- Fully God – all of God's power, knowledge, infiniteness, holiness, etc.
- Fully man – felt hunger, sadness, sweatiness, faced temptation, etc.
- Sinless – Jesus never sinned...He was the holy God
- Jesus paid our price for our sins...the perfect sacrifice, the perfect lamb of God
- This is by God's GRACE...underserved by anything we could ever earn

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Our sin has earned us death.

- That's the debt, the bill, for all our mistakes
- But instead of us dying eternally, and being separated from the holy God...

The perfect son of God, Jesus, died in our place, taking what we deserved

- BY HIS GRACE, He took our place, and paid the price for our sin.
- He rose from the grave, came back to life, and offers that life to us.

THIS IS GOD'S RESCUE! Everything in our story has pointed to THIS!

Hebrews 7:27

Unlike the other high priests, [Jesus] does not need to offer sacrifices...He sacrificed for [our] sins once and for all when he offered himself.

Without the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we would all be eternally separated from God!

- BUT, by believing in Jesus and accepting His forgiveness...we can be RESCUED from our sin and be restored to the life that God intended for us!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus Christ is God's RESCUE for our lives!

This is the true amazing beauty of Christmas...

- It's not about presents or stuff, or even a cute little manger nativity scene...
- The birth of baby Christ was the beginning of God's ultimate rescue plan
- Christ can restore us to the life He intended for us live.

Rescue is HERE.

("Rescue" VIDEO)

You might be thinking...this is all big and huge and cool...and something inside you is deeply drawn to this concept of rescue that Christ offers us. That video stirs you deeply.

But you might be asking...what does this mean in my life right NOW?

- How does this become something real in my life I live and feel daily?

Being rescued by Christ means living the life God intended all along for us to live.

What is the intended life? (Painting a picture...)

- Living for someone besides yourself
- Helping someone else out, serving them
- Having real, meaningful friendships with people without fear, shame, guilt, regret
- Spending time getting to know God personally and enjoying friendship with Him
- Honoring God in your boyfriend/girlfriend relationships and being pure
- Avoiding the heartache of big mistakes in your life
- Learning from your parents and having a relationship with them
- Honoring God in your school, sports, families...representing Christ each day
- Finding a sense of satisfaction knowing your life means something to God
- ALL WE DO AT PEAKE YOUTH – You've tasted it already!!

Close your eyes and think about your life if it was lived like that...

What does life look like that's NOT God's intended design? (Painting a picture...)

- Living for no one but yourself
- Never help someone else out
- Shallow, friendships filled with comparison, competition, and back-stabbing
- Never spending time getting to know God and feeling totally distant from Him
- Bad, harmful, unhealthy boyfriend/girlfriend relationships
- Living in heartache from big mistakes
- Fighting with your parents and having no relationship with them
- Searching for satisfaction and some sense of meaning in your life
- Missing out on ALL WE DO AT PEAKE YOUTH – never tasting this life here

Think about your life now - living for yourself, living for what feels good...what has that gotten you? How satisfied are you? Look at the world around you...isn't it so screwed up?

God wants to rescue you from a life lived apart from him. He has an intended design.

So you know what the end of our story is? RESTORATION

- Complete renewal to how life was intended to be
- Christ comes back a second time, whips Satan's butt, the literal heaven on earth begins, no more sadness, pain, suffering, eternity begins with us all and God
- That's the future for those who have been rescued by Christ

That is what makes our God so worthy of worship! This story is life-changing...

- ABC's of salvation
- For everyone else, this is yet another moment to continue dedicating your life to God's version of life, instead of your own.

Again, what is the intended life? That's what we will talk about next year...

- We want to teach you how to live this life...so be here in 2010 for Journey.