



Communion



Unfair Grace

# Unfair Grace

## **1 Timothy 1:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

<sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

# Philip Yancey

## “What’s So Amazing About Grace?”

### Story of Jeffrey Dahmer

- Homosexual Mass Murder
- Abused and Murdered 17 young men
- Cannibalized them
- Stored body parts in refrigerator
- 11 Corpses found in his apartment
- Nov. 1994 Dahmer was beaten to death

Yancey writes:

“One network showed a program taped a few weeks before Dahmer’s murder. The interviewer asked him how he could possibly commit the crimes he was convicted of. Dahmer said that these things happened before he believed in God, when he wasn’t accountable to anybody. He said it all **began with petty crimes and small acts of cruelty**, and he just kept going, further and further. Nothing restrained him. Dahmer then told of his recent religious conversion. He was **baptized in the prison whirlpool** and spent all of his time now reading his Bible and Christian literature.”

- The prison chaplain affirmed Dahmer's conversion, saying that his repentance was sincere and that he was one of his most faithful worshipers.

# What about Justice!



- What goes on inside you when you hear these things?
- Does it seem unfair?

# Jeffrey Dahmer's Story

- Grew up in Main Line Church of Christ
- Requested to be re-baptized in Prison
- Was this a death-Bed Prayer by Dahmer
- Conversion seems forthright/Biblically
  
- Forced me to face how I really feel



# Big Questions

- How in the world could he be in Heaven?
- How could he be in heaven when there are so many good people out there who aren't followers of Christ?
- Are we saying that Dahmer is in Heaven, but many of those good people aren't?

# Deep Issues

- We want salvation on How Good we are.
- We find this kind of Salvation as:
  - Unfair
  - Unrighteous
  - Almost ungodly

**Our view of God is way off**

# God has worked through Murders

- Paul – Death of Stephan
- Peter comes inches from Killing Malchus
- Moses murdered Egyptian
- Ect...

**These are some of the most important figures of  
God working on our planet**

# Why?

# God is Different

- He literally out of the Box
- What does this say about your belief system?
- Are you saved by grace alone or do you work hard to maintain that saved state?
- Paul stated that he worked harder than everyone else, because of the Grace given him

# Lucado's book, "In the Grip of Grace",

- "A condemned **criminal** was sent to his death by his country. In his final moments, he asked for mercy. Had he asked for mercy from the people, it would have been denied. Had he asked it of the victims, they would have turned a deaf ear. but it wasn't to these he turned for grace. He turned instead to the bloodied form of the One who hung on the cross next to his and pleaded,
- *'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'* And Jesus answered by saying, *'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.'* (Luke 23:43)

# Lucado's book, "In the Grip of Grace",

- As far as we know, Jeffrey Dahmer did the same thing.
- **Jeffrey Dahmer got the same response.**
- **The request Dahmer made is no different than yours or mine.**
- He may make it from a prison bunk and you may make it from a church pew, but from heaven's angle we're all asking for the moon."

# Upward Call

- Examine our own belief system
- Compare ourselves with Jesus' **Unfair justice** displayed to the criminal on the cross
- What makes it difficult:
  1. to accept Dahmer?
  2. salvation has nothing to do with your hard work?
  3. to simply depend 100% of the sacrifice of Christ for Salvation.

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Prayer