

# SCANDALOUS GRACE

Part 5 of New Days, Old Gods. 1 Kings 18:41-46.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. August 4, 2024.

## I GOT IN TROUBLE

**I was a first grade, devious, devil.**

## WE'RE ALL IN TROUBLE

**The entire human family is in trouble.**

- We're in trouble with God.
- He made humanity, and we rejected and replaced him.

Romans 1:25 (CSB) They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

- God pours out his love on us, but we've found other lovers.

Jeremiah 3:19-20 (CSB) I thought, "How I long to make you my sons and give you a desirable land, the most beautiful inheritance of all the nations." I thought, "You will call me 'My Father' and never turn away from me." 20 However, as a woman may betray her lover, so you have betrayed me, house of Israel. This is the LORD's declaration.

## HOW HUMANITY DEALS WITH ITS TROUBLE

**Humanity has historically dealt with its trouble in three main ways:**

- The secular mindset.
- The spiritual treadmill.
- The scandalous surprise.

# I KINGS 18:41-46

## Context.

- 9<sup>th</sup> century BC Israel.
- Ahab and Jezebel.
- Baal and Asherah.
- Elijah the prophet of God.

## 1 Kings 18:41-46

Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a rainstorm.”

42 So Ahab went to eat and drink, but Elijah went up to the summit of Carmel. He bent down on the ground and put his face between his knees.

43 Then he said to his servant, “Go up and look toward the sea.”

So he went up, looked, and said, “There’s nothing.”

Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.”

44 On the seventh time, he reported, “There’s a cloud as small as a man’s hand coming up from the sea.”

Then Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Get your chariot ready and go down so the rain doesn’t stop you.’ ”

45 In a little while, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and there was a downpour.

So Ahab got in his chariot and went to Jezreel.

46 The power of the LORD was on Elijah, and he tucked his mantle under his belt and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

# **SCANDALOUS GRACE: WHAT IT IS, HOW TO RECEIVE IT**

## **Rain. So what?.**

- Rain was a promised covenant blessing.

Deuteronomy 28:12 (CSB) The LORD will open for you his abundant storehouse, the sky, to give your land rain in its season and to bless all the work of your hands.

- Rain was a sign of scandalous grace - God's goodness on undeserving people.
- Ahab was an evil man, totally undeserving of God's goodness.
- The Lord was saying to Israel, "I want you back."

## **Grace is the only feasible solution to the trouble we're in.**

- Secularism does not solve the problem.
- Spirituality does not solve the problem.
- Only scandalous grace can restore us to God.

## **Jesus Christ is the full unveiling of scandalous grace.**

- God became one of us in Jesus Christ.
- God in Christ became sin for us.
- God in Christ died on the cross for us, a condemned, cursed, criminal.

## **Jesus Christ defies logic.**

- Jesus wants us back:

Matthew 11:28 (CSB) Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

- "Come to me." I want you back.

- “I will give you rest.” From secularism, made-made spirituality, despair, Satan.
- “All of you.” That excludes no one.

## **We receive scandalous grace through faith in Jesus the Savior.**

Ahab and Jezebel refused God’s grace.

1 Kings 19:1-2 (CSB) Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “May the gods punish me and do so severely if I don’t make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow! ”

Luke’s gospel paints a beautiful picture of how to receive grace.

Luke 7:37-38 (CSB) And a woman in the town who was a sinner found out that Jesus was reclining at the table in the Pharisee’s house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume 38 and stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to wash his feet with her tears. She wiped his feet with her hair, kissing them and anointing them with the perfume.

## **RE-SCANDALIZED BY GRACE**

**We get used to amazing and awful things.**

- We even get used to scandalous grace.
- We need to be re-scandalized to the wonder of grace in Christ.

**This is why the Lord invites us to his wedding feast.**

- In bread and wine, the Lord Jesus is fully present to all who eat in faith.
- It’s a great mystery and a scandalous grace: God with us, God IN us.
- Participate with awe.