

Short Talk

(SHT007)

Grace and Mercy

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SHORT TALK: “GRACE AND MERCY” (SHT007)

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| Aim of Short talk: | To explain what the words “Grace” and “Mercy” mean. |
| Main themes: | Grace, mercy |
| Biblical references: | Ephesians 2:4-5, 8, Titus 2:11, Revelation 22:21, John 3:16, Luke 1:50, Romans 9:15, 12:1 |
| Props: | Large box of chocolates in a bag (hidden), three placards on string that say, “BILL,” “JUDGE,” and “BILL’S DAD.” Table and chair for judge. Words for Judge (“Bill you are guilty of shop-lifting. I am fining you £1000.”) and words for Bill’s dad (“Bill, I know that you are sorry for what you have done. I will pay your fine totally and completely”) |

This morning I want to look at two words that we find in the Bible when we talk about God.

- The two words are Grace and Mercy

The word Grace is used approximately one hundred and twenty seven times in the New Testament about God,

- so what does it mean?
- What is grace?

To help us think about that, I have a gift in this bag.

- Who would like to receive this gift?
- OK, come forward now.

(When child/young person arrives at the front give them a large box of chocolates)

You weren’t expecting that were you?

- I hope you really enjoy these chocolates.
- Do sit down.

Some of you may wonder why I gave *N* (*name of person*) that large box of chocolates.

- Have they done something particularly good to earn it?
- Have they done really well in their exams?
- Have they behaved really well in church?

I gave that box of chocolates to *N* simply as a way of showing them unconditional, unearned, and undeserved love,

- and if I was richer, I would give you all a box!

Grace is when God gives us something that we don’t deserve,

- and the biggest gift that God offers us is His love.

We cannot earn God’s love, however hard we try,

- We don’t deserve God’s love, however good we are,
- We simply need to receive it.

It is because God loves us that He sent Jesus to earth,

- to live among us,
- then to die on a cross,
- so that we could receive forgiveness for our sins,
- and begin a lifelong loving relationship with Him.

Grace means that God is good all the time.....

- and He gives us what we don't deserve.

So what about mercy?

- What is that?

I need three people to help me show what mercy is. *(Three people come forward)*

- Let me introduce you to them.

This is Bill *(Hang placard around his neck that says "BILL")*

- This is a Judge, who sits in court *(Hang placard around his neck that says "JUDGE" and then lead him to sit down behind a table)*
- This is Bill's dad *(Hang placard around his neck that says "BILL'S DAD")*

One day Bill did something very wrong.

- He chose to shop-lift some bars of chocolate from Poundland.
- As he left the shop he got caught and the police were called.
- A few months later he ended up in court before a judge *(Lead Bill over to stand before the Judge)*

Listen to what the Judge said to him: *(Give the Judge the words below to speak)*

- "Bill you are guilty of shop-lifting. I am fining you £1000." *(Lead Bill away from the Judge)*

Now there was no way that Bill could pay the fine because he only got £2 pocket money a week.

- He faced the next few summers working hard in the fields picking celery to try and earn the money.

Imagine if Bill's dad then said to Bill:

- "Bill, I know that you are sorry for what you have done. I will pay your fine totally and completely."
- That would be mercy.

Mercy is when God does not give us what we do deserve.

- We all deserve to be punished by God for the wrong things that we do,
- but instead of punishing us....Jesus took the punishment and we are given love instead.
- That is mercy.

So GRACE is when God gives us what we **don't** deserve,

- and MERCY is when God does not give us what we **do** deserve.
- Thank you to our helpers.....would you like to sit down.