

This is the Day...Tuesday

May 10, 2022

That Amazing Grace

“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more? Simon replied, ‘I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.’ ‘You have judged correctly,’ Jesus said.” (Luke 7:41-43)

Bart Neuman was a friend of mine from college. Bart attended UNC Charlotte with me back in the early 1980s. Bart was a nice guy, unmarried, good looking, very respectful to others. He was working on his degree part-time and also employed at a local business. Bart drove a very nice sports car, wore much nicer clothes than me, and always seemed to have lots of spending money. He would often ask me to have lunch with him at a local sandwich shop and always insisted on paying for my meal.

Several months after Bart and I became friends, I noticed a change in him. He often seemed troubled and burdened. He even stopped asking me to share lunch with him. I was concerned that I may have done or said something to hurt our friendship or maybe a member of his family was sick. So, one day after class, I asked Bart what was going on. With tears in his eyes and the weight of the world on his shoulders Bart revealed that his problems had nothing to do with me or his family. It had to do with debt. Bart was up to his eyeballs in debt. Auto loan debt, credit card debt, and even a personal loan. The weight of that debt was almost more than Bart could bear. That is what debt can do to one's life. The weight of debt can crush us.

We all have debt. And I am not talking about monetary debt. We all have sin debt. Sometimes we try to compare our debt to others, thinking that will make us feel better. The truth is that we are all sinners, and without Jesus, we are not only in debt, we are bankrupt! Unlike Bart's debt, we carry a debt that we cannot repay. Whether one is a pastor or a prostitute, a theologian, or a thief, when it comes to sin, we are all equally broken and helpless. “There is none righteous, no not one.” The worst thing we can do is to teach others that they are good without Jesus. God doesn't offer His grace just to good people any more than a doctor would offer life-saving surgery just to healthy people. Never believe anything about yourself or God that could make His grace seem less than amazing. It is only when you see your goodness as worthless that you will see God's grace as priceless.

On this day God has given you, recognize the weight of your sin debt. You will never understand how great a Savior Jesus is until you recognize how great a sinner you are. It is the one who recognizes the weight of their sin that will truly love God and give thanks for His Amazing Grace.