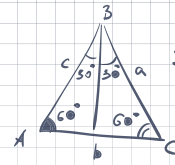


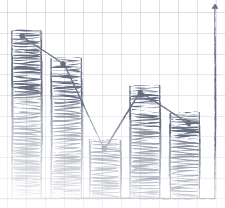
$$C = 2\pi r$$
$$S = \pi r^2$$
$$CAB = \pi r^2 \cdot \frac{1}{3} \cdot 60$$
$$S_{OHB} = \pi r^2 \cdot \frac{1}{3} \cdot 60$$
$$S_{EAD} =$$

$$p = \frac{40}{c} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$m = \frac{c}{CL} = \frac{40}{CL} = \frac{4}{CD}$$
$$hD = A + \frac{m \cdot 2r^2}{2}$$
$$x_c = \frac{h_c}{A}$$
$$V_c = \frac{A}{h}$$



$$S = \frac{a^2 \sqrt{3}}{4}$$
$$R = \frac{a\sqrt{3}}{3}$$
$$r = \frac{a\sqrt{3}}{3}$$



[MATH]

NUMBERS DONT LIE

4.13.2014 GROUP DISCUSSION

MESSAGE BY CHAD BRUEGMAN

THE MATH OF GRACE

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

Nerd or not; what was your favorite subject in school and why?

SHARE

Welcome back to our series entitled, "Math." In this series we have been working with the old adage that "numbers don't lie," and examining it in light of scripture. Just like he has done with math, there are principles that God has embedded into the fabric of life that are constant, no matter what. When it comes to the creator God, his numbers don't lie and his "math" is right every time, even when it seems like it can't add up.

The message this week talks about the mathematics of grace and how we have a really hard time comprehending it. As humans, we live our lives in a mathematical system of good and bad. If you are bad or you break the law, you are punished. If you are good in life and do your homework on time, you get good grades.

The problem is, we quickly find that Jesus doesn't play by the same rules. He is scandalous. He talks to and interacts with unclean people. He cares just as much about a single sheep as he does the other ninety-nine. He preaches a gospel of grace and forgiveness that flies in the face of our human nature. It doesn't add up.

Read this quote:

We prefer to think of sin in terms of behavior/performance/actions. It's easier that way. It allows us to do two things: We can focus on specific sins and "deal with them." Then when we have cleaned up that area of our lives we can move on and work on something else. It keeps things nice and tidy, not messy and overwhelming. Secondly, if we focus on sin as only a set of behaviors, then it gives us a justified way of puffing ourselves up. We can usually turn around and find someone who is more messed up than we are. What a relief! Besides, if actions and performance are the only measure, then honestly some days we do okay. You could follow us around and see us interacting with friends, spending time with our kids, taking care of our families, and serving others. If sin is just bad behavior then some days we are doing mighty fine!

-Ruthie Delk

Is there anything this quote brings to mind in your own life?

Think about your own perceptions of grace. If you are really honest, what do you struggle with most?

Think about a time someone was gracious toward you. What was your reaction? If it was hard to receive, why was that? If it was easy, why was that?

GROW

The truth is that if we are really honest, we like the idea that through Christ, our sins against God don't negatively impact our standing with him. But we don't like the idea that our good deeds don't impact our standing with him, either. Because it's **undeserved** favor, we can receive it whether we "deserve" it or not.

In Ephesians Paul says that grace is from God, not by works so that no one can boast. God knows our hearts and grace levels the playing field. He knows that living life through a merit-based lens leads to pride and entitlement. No matter who we are, if we think that our good deeds will gain us something; then we have given pride a foothold. We begin to compare and judge, developing a heart posture that actually takes us farther from the heart of God; not closer.

Read the parable in Matthew 20:1-16

What was your first reaction to how the landowner treated the workers? Why?

The New Bible Commentary says this:

"This parable underlines the paradoxical values of the kingdom of heaven. In a society with no welfare provisions or trade unions, where unemployment meant starvation, the action of the landowner in employing extra workers whom he did not really need so late in the day was an act of generosity. But even more extraordinary was the rate of pay, which made no economic sense, and the understandably provoked grumbling among those who felt unfairly treated. It was not unfair, of course. No one was underpaid; it was just that **some were treated with 'unreasonable' generosity**. That is what the kingdom of heaven is like. God's grace is not limited by our ideas of fairness; his gifts are far beyond what we can deserve. But like the older brother in the story of the Prodigal Son, we find it hard to abandon our human scale of values (especially when comparing ourselves with others!) and to accept the large-heartedness of God towards those we regard as undeserving."

What is your reaction to this commentary?

Why do we fight this concept of generosity that is so clearly foundational in the kingdom of heaven?

There is a deeper, overarching heart posture that we are battling with when we see God being generous to those who 'don't deserve it.' What do you think that is?

MOVE

At the heart of the matter, we begin to see our own selfishness surface. If we really understood what God was offering, wouldn't we want others to have it too? Why would we care if they worked for it or not? If the options (as this parable put it) were to either get a day's wage or face starvation, would we really want people to starve considering we did nothing to earn the job earlier in the day than they did?

So often we allow ourselves to fall into the trap that we are earning God's favor. We are making sacrifices for him. We aren't letting ourselves have as much 'fun' because we are under the illusion that makes us more fit for God's lavish generosity than those who partake in it. Like the older brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son, we are staying home and keeping the rules all the while not realizing our rule-keeping is keeping us just as far from the father as our rule-breaking younger brother.

Read:

Ephesians 1:7-8

Ephesians 2:4-9

Take a minute if anyone has any thoughts on these passages

In his message Chad clears up the point of Jesus' parable:

The Kingdom of God is characterized by a 'reckless' and lavish dispensation of gifts, not paychecks, because the currency of the kingdom of God is grace; not money.

What would it take for us to really grasp this and have it deeply change us?

What would we look like as believers if we abandoned our scales of fairness and acted with the same generosity that has been shown to us?

Are there any situations you have been in recently, or situations that you are currently facing that you would handle differently if you reflected God's grace in your own life? If you are willing, share with the group.

Take a minute for closing thoughts or questions

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

TO GO

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.