



8/5/25

In one of the first biblical counseling classes I took, the professor taught us that, instead of avoiding people we struggle with, take a step closer. Ask more questions. There is always more to the story. I feel like this applies to scripture as well. I used to avoid today's passage because I didn't understand it. But the Lord helped me to take a step closer, and it rocked my world! And I know that as I take another step closer today, the Lord will show me something new... or He'll show me how to apply it to my life better. I know He'll do the same for you. Here we go...

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Romans 5:12-21 ~

Vs. 12-14 ~ "Therefore..." since I have received reconciliation to the Lord through Jesus, I need to understand more of why I needed it. How weak, ungodly, and unrighteous was I? I was dead in my sin!

Dead. That's pretty bad. Spiritual death is confusing to my finite understanding. Physical death means I'm no longer breathing. Spiritual death means I don't have the breath of heaven giving me eternal life. The confusing part is... physical death seems more devastating and final. But it's spiritual death that destroys me for all eternity. If I have spiritual life, then my physical death is just the servant that ushers me into the presence of God. If I have physical life, but spiritual death, I will eventually die anyway... and be separated from the Lord forever... Without the Lord, I lose love, joy, peace, hope, freedom, and all that is good. Spiritual death is DEVASTATING.

The evidence of this awful situation is Adam's sin. Because he chose to separate himself from the Lord by disobeying His ONE RULE in the Garden, his rebellion against God changed his DNA and the DNA of every soul who came after him. All people were born with a disease... sin.

Even though the law of Moses didn't come until centuries later, the evidence of Adam's sin was that death did enter the world right away. There is a 100% death rate in all the world. It doesn't matter what the sin is, whether it's exactly like Adam's sin or not... we are all guilty before God.

In God's mercy, He didn't bring His wrath down on people right away... but has waited to bring judgment. And first, He had the plan of sending a second Adam... Jesus Christ His Son... who would do the exact opposite of what the first Adam did. Adam brought on the wrath of God. Jesus came to take away the wrath of God by taking it on Himself for anyone who would receive His gift and confess Him as Lord. I would say confessing Jesus as Lord and Master of my life is a pretty small thing to do, especially since He IS Lord and Master, whether I acknowledge that or not.

Vs. 15-17 ~ The result of Adam's ONE sin was death and separation from God for all who came after him... even to this day.

Adam's sin did not just bring death, it also brought condemnation of every human who came after him... even to this day! Every sin of every man is like spilling an ink bottle... the stain spreads and affects all in its path. Adam's ONE sin was like spilling an ocean of ink!

Here's the part that blows me away. Jesus and the Father poured out a grace on us that has more power than death and sin. While MANY died through Adam's sin... MUCH MORE has God's grace ABOUNDED for many.

Jesus brought a free gift to all of us who have all sinned. His free gift that followed MANY trespasses brought JUSTIFICATION. That doesn't make human sense!!! My sin should have brought MORE condemnation! That is the difference JESUS makes. He is SUPERHUMAN. Some people can argue that God shouldn't have had the possibility of sin available in the Garden of Eden. But I need to remember 2 things.

- 1. When someone is given no choice to reject another person, there can be no genuine love. God wanted relationship with us... He did not want to make us pawns or robots who had no choice in that relationship.*
- 2. God Himself knew that we would reject Him and He provided the way for us to be restored to Him by His own sacrifice. The cost to Him in allowing our rebellion was massive. He who had a choice to love us at any cost, chose to love us at any cost.*

Jesus' free gift for me cost me nothing, but it cost Him everything. He gave me the free gift of justification, acquittal of all guilt, regardless of how horrific or small it is. When I opened my hands and said, "Yes, Lord Jesus, I receive Your free gift," I received overflowing grace that crushed the penalty of sin in me. And not only that, I received the free gift of righteousness... I am not seen as guilty but absolutely approved before Him... so completely

approved that I will never face God's wrath... ever. Even the sin I commit today, though it grieves God, will never bring His condemnation on me. Because of Jesus, I have "diplomatic immunity." He will disciple me to help me overcome sin, but He will never condemn me for it. And not only that!!! I will reign with Him forever because of Jesus. Everything I have... justification, righteousness, and life... are because Jesus took my guilt, my unholiness, and my death sentence on Himself. O Lord, please help me to let this truth impact every part of my life!!!

Vs. 18-21 ~ "Therefore..." since the free gift of grace Jesus gave me is greater than the DNA of sin that Adam gave me, Adam's one sin that brought condemnation could not negate the one act of righteousness that Jesus gave.

Adam's one sin of disobedience brought condemnation for all people, making us all sinners who fall short of the glory of God and caused sin to reign in death.

Jesus' one act of righteousness in obedience justified ALL who receive His gift. With justification came life that trumps death, and unearned righteousness that can never be removed.

Centuries later, the law of Moses came. Instead of making people want to obey the Lord more, the desire to sin only grew stronger! But the grace of God is still greater than the sin. His grace trumps sin. Yes, sin reigns in death, BUT God's grace reigns through the free gift of righteousness that cost Jesus everything. His righteousness leads me to eternal life.

Once again, I see that I am not required to earn my justification, righteousness, or life. My only requirement is to believe that God's gift fulfills the whole requirement and receive that gift. My flesh wants to tell me that His gift was enough for salvation but not enough to keep God happy with me. My flesh is deceived. I need to speak truth to my heart and soul and cry out to the Lord to help me crush the flesh. O Lord, I choose to receive the truth because it IS the truth. I choose to reject anything that does not line up with Your word. You are Lord and Master. You are in charge. You can't be dethroned or voted out. Praise Your name. Amen!!!