

JESUS: THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Jesus: The Gift of God's Grace

Twelve Daily Studies for Christmas

John 1:1, 14, 16–17; 8:3–11; 2 Corinthians 9:15

SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

DAY 3

Jesus was born at a time when law was king. Rome kept order in its vast empire by wielding a club of judgment to crush any lawbreakers who challenged the emperor's authority. At the local level, kings and governors chiseled in stone their own laws to lay on people's backs. But that's not all; Pharisees, scribes, and priests added to the Jews' burden thousands of religious laws on top of the civil laws.

To this world sinking under the weight of laws and tyrants, God gave His Son as a gift of grace to display God's true law and reveal the compassionate heart of the Lawgiver. In this study, we'll highlight a scene in which Jesus gave His gift to a woman condemned under the law at just the moment she needed grace most.



PREPARE YOUR HEART

As we begin, reflect on your need for God's gift of grace through Jesus. If not for Him, we would all stand under judgment before God. Meditate on the following verses to prompt a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for His compassion, then ask the Lord to reveal His grace in a fresh way through His Word.

*The LORD is compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. . . .
He does not punish us for all our sins;
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.
For his unfailing love toward those who fear him
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.
He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west. (Psalm 103:8, 10–12)*

Quotable

My desire is that we will learn the importance of making the most important part of Christmas our focus—and that's Jesus.

— Charles R. Swindoll



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TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

What do we find when we receive God's gift of grace through Jesus? Something we don't deserve—forgiveness. A certain woman caught in adultery and dragged before Jesus needed such a gift. Read the account in John 8:1–11.

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."



Observation: A Woman in Need of Grace

Let's observe the details of this account. The setting was the temple where sinners went to atone for their sins and receive forgiveness. Against this backdrop of divine mercy, the merciless legalists brought a woman to trap Jesus. What was the dilemma Jesus faced?



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We don't know what Jesus drew in the dirt, but some think He may have been listing the accusers' sins. In this way, Jesus shifted the question from "What judgment does the woman deserve?" to "Who is qualified to judge her?" Reread Jesus' statement in John 8:7. How did Jesus turn the dilemma back on the accusers?

How did Jesus show grace to the woman while also confronting her sin (John 8:10–11)?



Interpretation and Correlation: Judgment Satisfied, Grace Offered

Let's explore further the meaning of this text by looking at the big picture. On a broader scale, who does the woman represent?

In general, who do the accusers represent?



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What are the lessons? One lesson is this: whether our sin is exposed or hidden, shocking or subtle, public or private, we all deserve judgment and desperately need grace. Jesus demonstrated that He alone is qualified to judge us and mediate our sin. He is our High Priest.

What does Hebrews 10:19–22 tell you about Jesus' role and work in atoning for your sin?

We all thirst for the compassion and forgiveness Jesus offered the woman caught in adultery, and we are so thankful to hear His words of pardon. As we count down the days to Christmas, let's remember that the baby in the manger was God's gift of saving grace to all sinners, then and now.



Application: We Need Grace in Every Season

In his message, Chuck Swindoll urged us to lean on Jesus' grace not just for pardon from sin but every day through every season of life.

We need grace all through our lives. We need grace as little children growing up. We need grace as teenagers, adapting to a world of adulthood. We need grace as middle-agers when the pressure of life is intense. We need grace when we get older. Grace is needed for those of us who marry and for those who remain single. Special grace is needed in releasing children from the nest. Grace is needed to forgive one another, to understand one another.

Close this study by writing down the ways you need God's gift of grace this Christmas season. Thank Him for your pardon from sin through Christ's atonement on the cross, and express your desire to lean on His grace in a special way today.



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A FINAL PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your amazing grace that saved me. In my condition before You, I am no different than the woman caught in her sin standing before Jesus. But through Him and the grace You showed at Calvary's cross of mercy, my sins have been atoned and my soul set free! This Christmas may I lean on You for Christ's saving power to continue upholding me. Amen.



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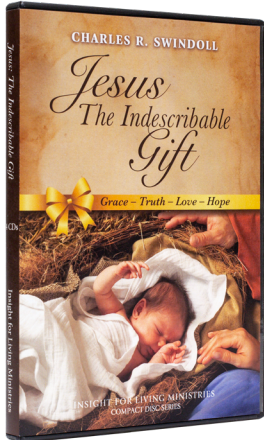
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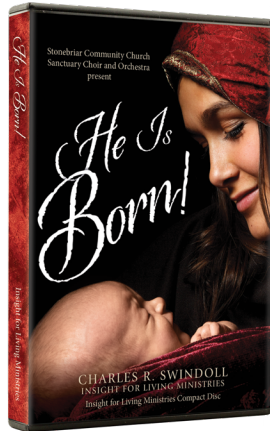
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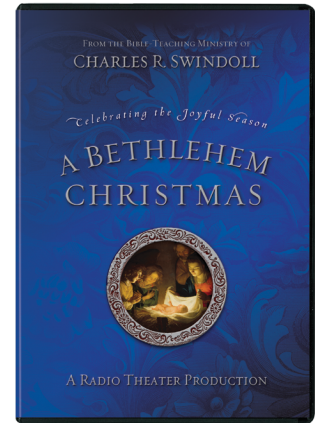
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For the 2018 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and sermon transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



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