

DEVOTIONAL PAGE

God's Grace Is Greater Than Our Disgrace

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*"Excerpts from Rodney Sumler's
speech to inmates at Ashland, Ky."*

The Bible contains one of the greatest love stories ever written (Jn. 3:16). It also contains Bibliographies of devout, dedicated, committed men and women. Then, on the other hand, we find some of the most wicked, wretched, mean, vicious, low-down and sinful people who ever walked the face of this earth. The shocking thing about many of those wicked people listed in the Bible is that God used them in His purpose and plan to save humanity. Even in the genealogy of Jesus, we discover that there were those who were guilty of improper and sinful behavior.

- Abraham pawned his wife for his sister.
- Isaac cheated his brother out of his birthright.
- Judah impregnated his daughter-in-law.
- David took Uriah's wife and had him killed.
- Solomon was polygamous.
- King Hezekiah was filled with pride, and failed to give God credit.

These are the ancestors of whom Jesus identifies with in His genealogy (Matt. 1:1-17). What does this teach us? Does it say to us that it's alright to sin? No! But it does tell us that God's grace is greater than man's disgrace. Notice what Paul said in I Corinthians 15:10, "But by the grace of God I am what I am." Paul once persecuted the Christian Church but, by the grace of God, he became one of the most outstanding personalities in the NT, besides Jesus Christ. By the grace of God, he was changed from persecutor to preacher of the good news.

We sometimes hear the statement that he or she is going to ruin their lives. However, when we look at life from a Biblical standpoint, we discover that a life can be hurt and scarred, but not ruined. Ruined implies that it is no more use, but in God's sight, we never become useless because His grace is greater than man's disgrace.

It doesn't matter how long a person has been lost, God's grace can save them. Nor does it matter how long a person has been on drugs, or how long they have been a prostitute, a homosexual, a thief, or a liar. God's grace is greater than man's disgracefulness. We must never forget that God is the God of mercy and love.

He hates sin, but loves the sinner.
He hates prostitution, but loves the prostitute.
He hates homosexuality, but loves the homosexual.
He hates stealing, lying, and all the immoral acts of humanity, but he still loves His creation so much that He gave His only Son to die on the cross.

God's grace is greater than man's disgrace.

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