

# THE FAVOR OF GOD

*Discovering the Healing Power of Prevenient Forgiveness and Enemy Love (Handout 1)*

Isaiah 61.1,2—The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God . . .

Matthew 9.10-11—While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Luke 19.7—All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

Luke 7.39—When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

**Confess to a Priest and You Will Be Forgiven**

**Confess directly to God and You will Be Forgiven**

**God already Forgives you, Will you turn and follow Him? (See: "Intrinsic or Imposed")**

1 John 1.8-10—If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive [apheimi] us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**Luke 4.16-22**—He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

**John 8.10-11**—Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

**Luke 19.5-7**—When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

**Luke 19.8**—But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

**Mark 2.9-11**—"Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

**Mark 1.30-31**—Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her [apheimi] and she began to wait on them.

**Jesus walked the earth as the radical, extravagant, and "dangerous" favor of God. He practiced a boundary pushing, law challenging, line crossing, Pharisee infuriating radical favor and inclusivity.**

**John 14.9-10**—Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."— John 10.10

\*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

Leviticus 19.17-18—Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Luke 10.29—But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Ephesians 4.32—Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God, in Christ, forgave you.

Colossians 3.13—Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord [Jesus] forgave you.

to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

**John 5.19**—Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”

**Luke 4.23-29**— Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’” “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “prophets are not accepted in their hometowns. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.” All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff.

**Matthew 5.20-48**—For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven . . . You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be complete, therefore, as your heavenly Father is complete.

**Luke 6.32-33**—“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.

**John 13.34-35**— A new command I give you: Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

**Luke 23.34**—Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

**Acts 7.60**—Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.



# THE FAVOR OF GOD

*Discovering the Healing Power of Prevenient Forgiveness and Enemy Love (Handout 2)*

**Matthew 6.14-15**—For if you forgive others when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

**Matthew 6.12**—And forgive us our debts, AS we also have forgiven our debtors.

**Matthew 18.23-35**—“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over TO THE JAILERS to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive a brother or sister from your heart.”

**1Peter 2.21-3.1**—To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you AN EXAMPLE, that you should FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

**Luke 9.22-24**—And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

**John 20.23**—If you forgive the sins of anyone, their sins are forgiven; if

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”— John 10.10

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**Mark 2.9-11**—But I want you to know that the Son of Man [the Bar Enasha - the new humanity, new creation, new community centered in Christ, see Daniel 7.13-14, 26-27] has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”

**Jonah 3.10-4.4**—When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened. This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. So he complained to the LORD about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, LORD? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. Just kill me now, LORD! I’d rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen.” The LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry about this?”

you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

**Matthew 10.7-8**—As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick . . . Freely you have received, freely give.

**Jesus walked the earth as the radical, extravagant, and “dangerous” favor of God. He practiced a boundary pushing, law challenging, line crossing, Pharisee infuriating radical favor and inclusivity. And the question we have to ask is, “Do We?”**

**Luke 15.1-2**—Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

**Luke 15.28-32**—“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when THIS SON OF YOURS who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ “My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because THIS BROTHER OF YOURS was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

**Luke 17.3**—So watch yourselves. “If A BROTHER OR SISTER sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive [apheimi] them.”

**Luke 17.3 (NRSV)**—Be on your guard! If ANOTHER DISCIPLE sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive [apheimi]

**Matthew 18.15**—If A BROTHER OR SISTER sins, go and point out the fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

