

Approximately 40 minutes



## **Judgment, Mercy, and Grace**

### **Opening Prayer**

**Father God,**

**We thank You for Your Word, which is living and powerful. Lord, today as we open the Scriptures, help us understand the depth of Your justice, the beauty of Your mercy, and the overwhelming gift of Your grace.**

**Holy Spirit, open our hearts. Help us see the seriousness of judgment, the wonder of mercy, and the saving power of Jesus Christ.**

**And if there is anyone listening today who does not yet know You, I pray this**

**message would draw them to the cross where forgiveness is found.**

**We ask this in the mighty name of Jesus.**

**Amen.**

## **Introduction: Three Words That Explain the Gospel**

Today we are going to talk about **three powerful words that explain the entire gospel message:**

- **Judgment.**
- **Mercy.**
- **Grace.**

These three truths reveal the heart of God and the condition of mankind.

Many people today want to talk about **love**, but they ignore **judgment**.

Others fear **judgment**, but they don't understand **mercy**.

And many people hope for **grace**, but they don't understand why they need it.

But when we look at the Bible, we discover something amazing:

👉 God is perfectly **just**, perfectly **merciful**, and incredibly **gracious**.

👉 The cross of Jesus Christ is where all three meet.

## 1. The Reality of Judgment:

The Bible begins with a clear truth: **God is holy and just**.

Because He is holy, He must deal with sin.

**Romans 3:23** (NIV) **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”**

Every human being has sinned.

Not just a few people.

👉 **All people.**

Sin separates us from God.

***Romans 6:23*** (NIV) ***“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”***

Notice the word **wages**.

Wages are something you **earn**.

👉 Sin earns a paycheck.

👉 And that paycheck is **death**.

The Bible teaches that one day there will be a final judgment.

***Hebrews 9:27*** (NIV) ***“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”***

That truth may sound uncomfortable in today's culture, but it is reality.

God will judge sin.

**Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NIV) “For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”**

- Every action.
- Every word.
- Every secret.

Everything will be revealed.

And that raises a serious question:

**How can anyone stand before a holy God?**

👉 Because if we are honest, we know something inside us is broken.

We know we have failed.

We know we have sinned.

And that leads us to the second word.

**Mercy...**

## 2. The Beauty of Mercy:

Mercy is when God **withholds the punishment we deserve.**

If judgment is what we earn, mercy is what God shows.

***Psalm 103:10* (NIV) "He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities."**

That is mercy.

👉 If God treated us exactly how we deserved, none of us would survive.

But God is compassionate.

***Psalm 86:15* (NIV) "But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness."**

God is patient.

He is slow to anger.

👉 He is giving humanity time to turn to Him.

**2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

God doesn't delight in judgment.

He desires repentance.

Throughout the Bible we see God showing mercy again and again.

Think about the story of the woman caught in adultery.

The religious leaders were ready to stone her.

But Jesus said something powerful.

**John 8:7 (NIV)<sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”**

One by one they walked away.

Then Jesus said:

**John 8:11 (NIV)<sup>11</sup> “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”**

That was mercy.

She deserved judgment.

But Jesus gave mercy.

However, mercy alone is not the whole story.

 Because mercy says **“You are not punished.”**

👉 But grace says something even greater.

### 3. The Power of Grace:

Grace is when God **gives us what we do “not” deserve.**

Not only does God withhold judgment through mercy...

He gives salvation through grace.

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”**

Grace is a **gift**.

- You cannot earn it.
- You cannot buy it.
- You cannot deserve it.

👉 Grace comes through Jesus Christ.

**Romans 5:8 (NIV) “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

Think about that.

Jesus didn't die for perfect people.

He died for sinners.

👉 The cross is where judgment, mercy, and grace meet.

At the cross:

- God's **justice** was satisfied.
- God's **mercy** was shown.
- God's **grace** was given.

👉 Let us look at God's Word...

**Isaiah 53:5 (NIV) “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that**

**brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”**

Jesus took the judgment we deserved.

That is the heart of the gospel.

#### **4. Two Future Judgments:**

The Bible actually describes two different judgments.

The first is the **Great White Throne Judgment.**

**Revelation 20:12 (NIV) <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.**

This judgment is for those who rejected Christ.

It ends in **eternal** separation from God.

👉 But **believers** face a different judgment.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** (NIV) **10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.**

This is often called the **Bema Seat**.

👉 It is not judgment for sin.

Jesus already paid for that.

👉 It is a judgment of **rewards** for believers.

Because of grace, believers are not condemned.

**Romans 8:1** (NIV) **“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**

That is incredible news.

## 5. The Decision Every Person Must Make:

👉 Every person must respond to Jesus.

**John 3:18 (NIV) “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.”**

Notice something.

The world is not condemned because of lack of religion.

Not because of lack of effort.

👉 People are condemned because they **reject the Savior.**

Jesus offers forgiveness.

But we must receive it.

### **Invitation: Come to Jesus**

Maybe someone listening today has never truly given their life to Christ.

The Bible says salvation is simple.

**Romans 10:9 (NIV) “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”**

Jesus died for your sins.

He rose from the grave.

And today He is offering you mercy and grace.

- If you want forgiveness...
- If you want a new life...
- If you want eternal life...

👉 You can come to Jesus right now this very moment...

Let us Pray by faith:

**“Lord Jesus,  
I know that I am a sinner.  
I believe You died on the cross for my  
sins.  
I believe You rose from the dead.  
Please forgive me and come into my life.  
I turn from my sins and I trust You as my  
Lord and Savior.  
Thank You for Your mercy.  
Thank You for Your grace.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.”**

**👉 The Bible says if you truly believe in  
Christ, **you are saved....****

**Welcome to the family of God!!!**

## **Closing Encouragement:**

**For believers, this message reminds us of  
something beautiful.**

- We were saved from **judgment**.
- We were given **mercy**.
- And now we live in **grace**.

👉 So let us live lives that honor Christ.

👉 Let us share the gospel with others.

Because the world desperately needs to hear the **good news of Jesus**.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Father God,**

**Thank You for Your incredible mercy and amazing grace. Thank You for sending Jesus to take our judgment upon Himself so that we could be forgiven.**

**Help us live with gratitude for what You have done. Give us boldness to share the gospel with others.**

**And Lord, if anyone today has turned to You for salvation, strengthen them and guide them in their new life with Christ.**

**We give You all the glory.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**Amen.**

