



## KING FOREVER

### Week 7 | Talking About the King

#### | KEY THOUGHTS

- Many people express fear, anxiety, and reluctance to share the gospel with others.
- **Our first call to action is prayer.**
- For the Christian, **prayer is intentional dependance on God**, acknowledging that He is Lord and I'm not.
- If I'm going share the gospel with others, I've got to know what the gospel is: **God's mysterious plan, Jesus Christ in the world.** That's what the Bible is about!
- The mysterious part is *why* He came; we can't comprehend that kind of love. Once you've experienced this grace, though, **it will reorient your entire life.**
- Religion teaches that if I do this and that, God will accept me; **grace is God saying, "I know you can't do all that, and so I did it.** You can't pay for it, it's already done."
- Prayer isn't to persuade God to reshape the world to the way we want it, but that **we would see the world the way He sees it.**
- The way we live and pray are **tools God will use** to take the gospel into the world.
- Paul didn't pray that God would change his circumstances, but that he would see **in those circumstances the opportunities God provided to share the gospel.**
- **Living by God's grace means being real**—not trying to pretend we don't mess up, that we have no problems, or that we're better than others. **When others see how we seek God in our struggles, it will draw them to the gospel that saves us.**
- Sharing the gospel effectively isn't about having all the answers, doing everything right, or doing all the right things; it's about **letting God use everything in your life so His glory can be seen through you.**

## | SCRIPTURE

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. <sup>3</sup> Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. <sup>5</sup> Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

**Colossians 4:2-6 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, <sup>14</sup> who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

**Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. <sup>13</sup> You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. <sup>14</sup> He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

**Colossians 2:12-14 (NLT)**

I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself.

**Colossians 2:2 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)**

## | PRACTICAL

- When you hear about people's lives being changed by faith in Christ and it resonates with you—if you've experienced God's grace and are being transformed by it day by day—you're ready to share the gospel with others.
- God can use your most fumbling attempts, because it's not your skill in sharing the gospel that matters; it's God who changes hearts, not you.
- If you want to share the gospel but are uncertain how to begin...
  - Get with other growing believers and share the gospel with them, pray with them
  - Read the Bible with other believers, discussing it and learning from one another
  - Pick up the book *How Good is Good Enough?* by Andy Stanley; read it through yourself and invite someone else to read it with you
- If you aren't excited about sharing the gospel, don't share it! Instead...
  - Read it, immerse yourself in it, ask questions, read it with others
  - If you aren't impressed with God's grace, ask Him to open your eyes to it—that's a supernatural work that only God can do
  - Let God's grace consume you, and it will ooze out of your every pore

## | REFLECT

- When I'm walking in God's grace but stumble over life's struggles, God picks me up and carries me. When a person outside of God's grace falls, it's up to that person to get back up and carry the whole weight alone. In light of that, how might God use my struggles to draw others to Him?
- When Paul writes about gracious and attractive conversation, he's talking about extending to others the grace God has extended to me—forgiveness toward those who don't deserve it—unconditional love no matter what the person's condition—seeing others like God sees them, with compassion for the confused and the helpless—putting others' needs above my own. By that definition, how do others see my conversation?
- When was the last time I gathered with others simply to pray? Is that something God might be leading me to do?

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