

# Living In The Overflow of God's Love

## Love Is Patient

### Introduction:

Imagine with me an un-churched person - "explain to me what salvation is?"

### You reply-

Salvation is the act whereby the graciousness of God rescues one who is a part of the fallen world brought about by Adam & Eve's sin. Salvation therefore comes by one's placement of faith in His Son, Jesus Christ and a willingness to surrender one's life through immersion for forgiveness of one's sins.

### But if we said something like:

Trust in Jesus, so he can wash you and lead you to a new life and He will pry open sins claws and let you soar free.

I suspect that people would want to know more.

Both definitions in a sense mean the same thing. But the second one is filled with word pictures. They help us see, feel, and desire God's deliverance. Vividness really makes the difference.

When it comes to communicating through images, Jesus was a master. He used them frequently in order to express deep and difficult truths about God and us.

### The Story

Do you see the people hiding in their own homes?

- That's really you & me in there.

Do you see those people hiding behind the stairs?

- That's also you and me as well.

What we're doing is avoiding the bill collector.

- The bank has given one day to pay up on the house!
- The credit-card agents have pitched their tents on the lawn.
- Those legal loan sharks have our number!

But we're completely broke!

- Water's off •Last food stamp •Car repossessed
- The IRS guy is banging at the door saying "come out... I know you're in there!"

**And we've got nothing to give! (Can't get blood from a stone)**

We open the door to let him in (we notice the sheriff with him) and we're going to jail!

Suddenly his cell phone rings...

- It's Washington! •President wants to speak to you •With us.

The President wants an explanation about what's going on!

- We have no explanation! •We have no defense! •All we have is a plea for patience.

So the president listens in silence & then asks to speak with the IRS agent again...

- You hear "uhummm, yessir, ok!"
- He closes his phone "your debt is cancelled"

**Wow...**

Maybe you never knew that God did this for us.

Maybe no one has ever told you- God's patience & tolerance & kindness for your sake **Ro.2:4**

**You remember Psa 103:8** *The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.*

When we forget passages like this, no wonder we get edgy and impatient

- Bankruptcy can put a lot of us in a pretty bad mood.

You know what you need to do, right?

- Stand in the place of that IRS guy... and see what he saw!

**You were in debt**

Those times you swore... God could have blown up at you (What are you thinking?)

-But he didn't, he was patient with you.

You know those thousand sunsets you never thanked him for

-He could have made the creation around you pretty ugly.

-But he didn't, he was patient with you.

Or what about all those promises...

- "Get me out of this and I'll never tell another lie"

- "From now on I'll stand up for you Jesus"

- "I promise this time, no more pouting"

**Man-o-man... if promises were dimes... we'd own a bank!**

**Doesn't God really have a good reason to walk out on us?**

**Here's what amazes me:** God doesn't walk out on us! -Because he's patient with us. (2 Pet. 3:8-9)

*But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

**Paul begins his chapter in 1 Cor. 13:4 with "Love is patient"**

There was a monk who was very impatient. You may wonder why would a monk be impatient? Don't they become monks so that they don't have to deal with the world? Yes, that's true. So imagine how impatient this monk was...

The more he tried, the more impatient he became, so he decided that he must get away altogether, to learn to be patient. So he built himself a little home deep in the woods, far away from civilization.

Years later, a man was traveling in those woods and met him. The man was amazed to find anyone living so far away from the rest of the world, so he asked the monk why he was there all by himself.

The monk said that he was there to learn to be patient.

The traveler asked how long he had been there, and the monk replied: seven years.

Stunned, the traveler asked, "If there is no one around to bother you, how will you know when you are patient?"

Annoyed, the monk replied, "Get away from me, I have no time for you."

## Love is Patient

A. This word patient is a descriptive word... figuratively meaning to take a long time to boil.

1. What ultimately makes that water boil?

•Stove? •The pot?

2. What makes to pot boil is the fire!

•A large flame will boil the water quickly •A low flame boils water slowly

3. Patience keeps the flame low

B. Don't misunderstand this now... patience doesn't ignore sin

•Patience isn't naïve •waits •listens •is slow to boil

**This is how the Lord treats each of us**

## Here's where it gets hard though- According to Jesus, this is how we should treat one another

A. Jesus once told a parable about a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants...

### Matt. 18

1. And wouldn't you know who surfaces... This guy who owes not a little or even a little too much. He owes more than he could ever pay! (In our circumstances... like millions of dollars)

2. But the king decides that all that he has (family- wife & children) be sold to pay back the debt. **He's about to lose it all...**

-No wonder 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. **Matt. 18:26-27**

B. Did you notice that the man does not plead for mercy or forgiveness? (**pleads for patience!**)

1. I also have taken note that Jesus used the word patience twice (**only in this parable**)

2. Patience is much more than a virtue to be used in long lines and for slow waitresses.

**Listen- Patience is the silver platter upon which God's grace comes to us!**

3. Without patience there would be no mercy

•But the king was patient •And the man's debt was forgiven

C. But the story takes a sharp left hand turn.

1. This freshly forgiven guy leaves the courthouse and beelines it to the burbs...

But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. 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.' **Matt. 18:28-30**

2. The king is absolutely stunned!

•How could he be so impatient? •You'd expect a little more Mother-Teresa-ness (911)

3. You'd think that a guy who was forgiven this much would love much (**remember?**)

## Look at the costly mistake this man makes

A. This unforgiving guy is called back to the king... *"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'*

In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

**Max Lucado-** The king's patience made no difference in this man's life. To the servant, throne-room mercy was nothing more than a canceled test, a dodged bullet, a get-out-of-jail-free card. He wasn't stunned by the royal grace; he was relieved he hadn't been punished. He was given much patience but gave none, which makes us wonder if he actually understood the gift he had received.

B. Sometimes we find it hard to be patient, don't we?

1. If so, you might ask- How aware are you with God's patients in your own life?

- You've heard it
- You've read it
- You've even underlined it

2. **BUT-** Have you received it?

- It's the same as the woman who washed Xp feet- she loved much/forgiven
- you see, "patience deeply received results in patients freely offered"**
- Patients never received leads to an abundant amount of problems for the xian!
- Remember where the king sent this man... **Matt. 18:34**

**Here's where the danger is- we might say... "I'm glad this is only a parable and that God really doesn't imprison the impatient in the real world."**

A. I'm not so sure that he doesn't!

1. The prison of self-centeredness & ingratitude are worse than cold concrete & steal.
2. Impatience still imprisons the soul!

B. God does much more than demand patience in our lives- **God offers us patience!**

C. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit

1. Patience is white onto harvest on the tree of Gal. 5:22
2. The Spirit of God produces the sweet fruit of love, joy, peace, **patience...**

**This lesson begs to ask you this question:**

Have you asked God to give you some fruit?

1. You might say, well, I did ask him once for... oh but then he didn't answer...
  - It can be easy for us to grow impatience waiting on God.
2. I say ask him again, and again, and again and again...
  - God will not grow impatience with your pleading
  - And the benefit for us is we'll receive patience in our praying