



Life Words

Grace: From Rags to Riches (Ephesians 2)

By Charlie Lehardy, 02 August 2015

BIG IDEA: Most “rags to riches” stories are fairy tales, but the story of God’s grace is a rags to riches promise that God has written, in love, for us.

In chapter 2 of Ephesians, Paul weaves a rags to riches story for the ages. It begins in the darkness and finality of death, the death we all lived in before Jesus: **“Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.”**

But the story takes a surprising turn when hope blossoms in an unexpected place, the cross: **“But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead.”**

It ends in a stunning display of love – God reconciles us to himself by grace: **“God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.”**

Ephesians 3:18-19 “And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”

1. You have not been forgiven because you’re such a wonderful human being, but because God is love.
2. You are not God’s weekend handyman project; you are his masterpiece.
3. You are part of God’s good plan, and he has work for you to do.

If all of these things are true, how should I respond to God?

Next step questions:

- If God created me for a purpose, what is it?
- If God long ago planned good things for me to do, what are they?
- What should I be doing, starting today, to discover God’s purposes for my life?