



BO'S BLOG

Grace is here!

I've written before, in February, that I like this month. It's a hope-full month, because it's the beginning of Spring Training for baseball. Every player on the team is going to have a great year! This year we're going to win the World Series! This hope, this optimism, springs from grace, because what happened in past years doesn't necessarily count for this year. Everyone gets a start-over. Everyone gets a clean slate.

Everyone needs grace. Grace is Christianity's unique message. Undeserved forgiveness! We all mess up. We all do things we wish we didn't do. We all need grace—from others, and for ourselves.

When we see others mess up, and then sincerely acknowledge that they messed up and ask for forgiveness, we need to step up and give them the grace that they need. I don't know how many times I have needed grace, and I know I will continue to need it many more times. Making mistakes is part of being human. Giving grace is what we need to do to be a friend, to be married, to be a family, to be a community.

We also need to be able to give grace to ourselves. There are some people who simply cannot forgive themselves, even though all those around them forgive them. We need to be able to let go of our mistakes—to learn from them, but to let them go. If we cannot do that, then we cannot truly accept the grace that others offer us, nor can we accept God's grace. And what we end up doing is isolating ourselves from everyone else.

Behind it all there's God's grace, always there for us. Which is a good thing, because we need that most of all. Because for us human beings, Spring Training doesn't just start in February. It also starts in March, and April, and every month of the year. And every day of every month. We are always getting distracted from our relationship with God, and forever having to turn back and start again. And each time we need to do that, God is there, waiting for us, inviting us back, 24/7/365.

Grace is here! We get a clean slate!

Shalom,

Bo