

How life works...

Gifts: you receive more than you deserve

Purchase: you get out what you put in

Unfair: good keeps getting taken away

When you look at life, what do you see?
→ work, money, relationships, studies, health, soul, ...
When we look at God, what do we see?

The diagram features three hand-drawn illustrations. On the left, a green gift box with a blue ribbon is being held by two hands. In the center, a cash register sits on a counter next to a shopping cart with a 'SHOP' sign. On the right, a character in a blue cap and striped pants runs while carrying a large orange sack over his shoulder.

1

The Gift of God
Luke 22:63–23:25

bib.ly/Lu22.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

This diagram is a simplified version of the one above, showing the gift box, the cash register and shopping cart, and the thief with the sack, but without the text boxes.

2

Right before this passage

Luke 22

Jesus has just been arrested

Peter has just denied even knowing Jesus

yet Jesus says Peter will be restored and do good work for God

→ Despite our failings, God is at work

rescuing people like us who will seek His merciful help

Right after this passage

Luke 23

Jesus will be crucified

3

People in this passage

Jewish

The men guarding Jesus

Council of elders

- chief priests & teachers of the law

"The people"

Jesus

Barabbas

- guilty of insurrection & murder

Roman

Pilate: governor over all Judah

Herod: regional king over Galilee

Herod's soldiers

4

Luke 22:63-65

The **men who were guarding** Jesus began **mocking and beating** him. They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophecy! Who hit you?” And they said **many other insulting things** to him.

5

Luke 22:66-71

At daybreak the **council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law**, met together, and Jesus was led before them. “If you are the Messiah,” they said, “tell us.”

Jesus answered, “**If I tell you, you will not believe me,** and if I asked you, you would not answer. **But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.**”

They all asked, “Are you then **the Son of God?**”

He replied, “You say that I am.”

Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”

6

Luke 23:1-5

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to **Pilate**. And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”

So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find **no basis for a charge** against this man.” **#1**

But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

7

Luke 23:6-12

On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to **Herod**, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, **vehemently accusing him.** Then **Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him.** Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

8

Luke 23:13-25

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found **no basis for your charges** against him. **#2** **Neither has Herod**, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

But **the whole crowd shouted**, “Away with this man! Release **Barabbas** to us!” (**Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.**)

9

Luke 23:13-25

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they **kept shouting**, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

For **the third time** he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him **no grounds for the death penalty**. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.” **#3**

But **with loud shouts they insistently demanded** that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. **He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.**

10

People in this passage

Jewish

The men guarding Jesus
 Council of elders
 - chief priests & teachers of the law
 "The people"

Jesus

Barabbas

guilty of insurrection & murder
 is set free by Jesus' death

Roman

Pilate: governor over all Judah
 Herod: regional king over Galilee
 Herod's soldiers

Finding ourselves in the story...

The perfect Son of God
 who now sits on the throne as God
 was unjustly mocked, tortured, and killed

11

The Big Idea

Jesus died the only Righteous One
 so people who are all sinful
 who trust Him
 can be completely forgiven
 so we can truly and fully and eternally live with Jesus
who reigns as God over everything forever!

12

God is just

So He will eventually make the entire universe completely just
 God gives presents AND God gives judgments

** not just religious wrongs **

“Every wrong in the universe will

– **either be covered by the blood of Christ**

– **or be repaid justly by God at the final judgment.”**



13

“For the wages of sin is death,
 but the gift of God is eternal life
 in Christ Jesus our Lord.”



Romans 6:23

“For it is by grace you have been
 saved, through faith—
 and this is not from yourselves,
 it is the gift of God...”



Ephesians 2:8

14

The Big Idea

Jesus died the only Righteous One
so people who are all sinful
who trust Him
can be completely forgiven
so we can truly and fully and eternally live with Jesus
who reigns as God over everything forever!

15

Application

Embrace grace

- Grace: God's gift of life in Jesus to sinners like us
- What we desperately need is the great gift God freely gives
 - beyond our wildest dreams!
 - **In every part of life**

16

- I often think: this work of God is for one small part of my life
 - It doesn't pay the bills, fix my car, change my relationships, ...
 - I can receive the gift of escaping hell (by grace)
 - But everything else is based on "law" (by work)
- Sometimes I think...
 - I don't deserve good in this area of my life, because I haven't been good enough
- Sometimes I think...
 - I deserve more good in this area of my life, because I have done my best
- Often I worry, or work harder, or give up in despair, or ...
- **But...**

17

- The grace of God is for the whole of our lives because Jesus reigns as God over everything
 - We are to love God with all that we are, because God's work is the same for all that we are
 - We are to pray about everything,
 - because everywhere God works is filled with life!**
 - "Do not be anxious **about anything**, but **in every situation**, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And **the peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:6-7*
 - Seek God's presence and grace and work in everything!
 - Often includes obvious blessings, like needs being met
 - Always includes "inwardly being renewed day by day" *2 Corinthians 4:16*

18

Grace is not just for escaping hell and going to heaven

- It is for the whole of life
- But remember: God's gifts are not like the "gifts" of the world
 - Not a promise for what we see as success on TikTok or Facebook or advertisements or selfish desires
 - **It is a promise of the peace and presence of God**
- These gifts...
 - kill our pride
 - kill our desire for vengeance and our refusal to forgive
 - often come in unexpected forms
 - yet they always come in the wisdom of God

19

The Big Idea

Jesus died the only Righteous One
 so people who are all sinful
 who trust Him
 can be completely forgiven
 so we can truly and fully and eternally live with Jesus
who will reign over everything as God forever!

When you look at life, what do you see?

When you look at God, what do you see?

Jesus came to love, to give to, to rescue, and to bring life to people who need His goodness and who cry out to Him

20

**Let us embrace the grace of God
in the whole of our lives
to receive the forgiveness and peace of God
in the whole of who we are**

**Based on the gift of the death of Jesus for us,
let us love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
so we can truly and fully live in Him forever**