SHOUTS OF GRACE

Zechariah 4:6-10

Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/media

Pastor Mark Scarr

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Starter: What is the biggest task/project you have ever been involved in the completion of? Were you discouraged? Why? What would you say was key to finishing the work?

Materials: pens and pieces of paper

Discussion:

1. Have each person write down how they would define the word 'grace'. Read the passages referencing the 4 kinds of grace Pastor Mark mentioned. [Eph 2:8-9 = saving grace; Rom 3:24 = justifying grace; Titus 2:11-12 = teaching grace and 2 Cor 12:8-9 = enabling grace]. How might their definition have changed after this exercise?
2. Pastor Mark's sermon focused on 'enabling grace'. God's power at work in a weak and undeserving vessel. Read Zechariah 4:6-10 in the NIV and then in the KJV. Discuss what the shout might have indicated for it to be translated as 'Grace, grace to it!' and 'God bless it?'?
3. Take some time to invite members to candidly name some 'mountains' in their lives. Have those who share write what their mountain is on their paper. The context of this passage is that Zechariah is being used by God to encourage Zerubbabel who has become discouraged and is overwhelmed. Zechariah had been given a vision of a lamp whose oil never ran out. The oil represents the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Each believer has the Holy Spirit in them. Take a moment to pray for those who have shared 'mountains', inviting the Holy Spirit to encourage them and to lead them into all truth.
4. Review the seven principles of activating 'enabling grace': realization, identification, declaration, proclamation, completion, perception and celebration. Is there a principle that particularly resonates with a member and, if so, why?
5. It's God's power that orders circumstances perfectly. It's God's power that causes bosses and officials and neighbours to look on us favourably. BUT even when we encounter obstacles and challenges it is His power and presence that sustains. What is the only appropriate response? GRACE GRACE. Have members share their favourite verses with one another. What are some other practical ways they can encourage one another until you meet again?

Diving Deeper

- One of the principles of activating 'enabling grace' is to check our perceptions? Zech 4:10a says 'Who dares to despise the day of small things….' Check your perception of your mountain. Meet with a trusted friend or pastor to process what is reality and what might merely be perception. What possibilities and baby steps of change, improvement and progress might you have been missing? Confess your discouragement and doubt and pray for His courage and strength.
- A song of victory: Shouts Of Grace by Eno Michael (https://youtu.be/eF2Bv1xIAc4)