

The Marvels of God's Grace

God's ways are higher than man's (Isaiah 55:9). And this is no greater manifested than in the way He chooses, accepts and uses people. Often the world's rejects are God's elects. **"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world.... And the things that are despised.... That no flesh should glory in His presence"** (I Corinthians 1:27-29). This is repeatedly played out in scriptures and in contemporary times through divine choice of people like Joseph, David, the disciples of Christ, Kathryn Kuhlman, Gladys Aylward, etc through the marvels of His grace. Grace is God's unmerited favours on mankind. It is **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. It produces hope, encouragement and challenge to steadfastly cling to God irrespective of circumstances and past experiences.

This message explores the paradoxical wonders of God's grace on mankind that often defy human expectations. Man is fond of developing theoretical models that reflect their perception of how God would respond in certain situations. Such models often fall short of the actual dealings of God, because:

1. Human models are based on perceptions about personality, background, prospects etc and therefore prone to errors similar to the one Samuel nearly made had he not been sensitive to the Holy Spirit - **"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man**

looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7). Just as Jesse left David in the field as he did not consider him a potential candidate for kingship, so do ministers "bury alive" in their churches people they don't think fit for service.

2. Their models are derived from letters, rather than the spirit of the law. As we know, **"... the letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life"** (2 Corinthians 3:6).
3. Human models draw from the past and present, whereas God's dealings include the future. **"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done...."** (Isaiah 46:10).

Human models often result in forms of godliness that deny the power of God (2 Timothy 3:5). If their operators are leaders of churches with members like David, Samuel, Ruth, Rahab, etc, they may never have been given the roles God gave them because in the eyes of such leaders:

1. David's past sins of adultery and murder disqualifies him from a prominent position as **"a man after God's heart"** (Acts 13:22). Rather they could have disciplined David and put him in a perpetual "cooler" so he can learn lessons on the gravity of his sins.
2. Ruth should have been excommunicated because God commanded that **"An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation...."** (Deuteronomy 23:3). They could have strenuously proved that only 139 years has elapsed between events in Deuteronomy 23 (1451 BC) and that in Ruth 3 (1312 BC) – therefore insufficient time-span for ten generations. However, God went

