

## 40 Days of Grace, week 2: ... But not for me

### “I’m too bad to deserve grace.”

#### **The Prodigal Son, part 1 (Luke 15:11–24)**

If you had to be worthy to receive grace, it wouldn’t be grace.

#### **The heroes of the faith (Hebrews 11:4–32)**

Three of the seventeen did not do something terrible.

David was an adulterer and murderer: but God called him “a man after my own heart”.

### “I’m too good to need grace.”

#### **The Prodigal Son, part 2 (Luke 15:25–31)**

A dangerous trap:

1. We’re saved by grace
2. We respond by living good lives
3. We admire our own good choices
4. We think that God must be impressed
5. So we don’t need any more grace ... right?

Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? [...] How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?

— Galatians 3:1a, 3.

We need God’s grace, not just for salvation but for life.

You can’t impress God. But you don’t need to!

The father loved both sons.

While [the younger son] was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

— Luke 15:20.

The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him.

— Luke 15:28.

### “I’m basically a good person”

Lots of non-Christians can’t see the problem: why do they need forgiveness?

1. Do you honestly live up to your own standards?
2. God is good. He wants to give you so much more than just forgiveness.

### “I’m a special case: invisible.”

Are you too small to be noticed by God?

It’s the wrong question. Is God so small that he can’t notice and love you?

O Lord, you have examined my heart  
and know everything about me.

— Psalm 139:1.