

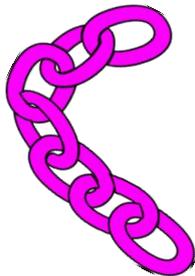


Sermon summary of the message by Arthur Crane, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2019



## The ungrace PRISON

BREAKOUT



## Living in the deep streams of God's grace

*... but where sin increased grace increased all the more.*

Romans 5:20

## grace/ungrace

### A. In a humanistic world of the ungrace prison:

- “No pain no gain” ... no gain without -----
- There's no such thing as a free lunch.
- Demand your rights – get what you pay for.
- Get what you deserve; nothing more, and nothing less.
- Get your just deserts – that's calculated worldly justice.
- But a spirit of unforgiveness is toxic to our souls.
- “What goes around comes around” and so the ungrace world goes round and round; more evil, more revenge.

### The Old Testament story in the port city of Joppa

(700 B.C. – At that time it was the capital of the Assyrian Empire)

Jonah's agonizing ungrace wait-and-see spirit of unforgiveness, 'get what you deserve', waiting for the justice of God to fall upon the great **GENTILE** city Nineveh “*till he might see what would become of the city.*” Jonah 4:5.

### The New Testament story, again in the port city of Joppa

(Joppa is now under the control of the Roman Empire)

Peter, in a vision, is asked to eat all kinds of 'unclean' animals and refuses saying, “*By no means Lord I, have never ...*”(Acts 10)

## **B. In a world of God's Grace there's a prison breakout:**

God breaks into the cycle of evil and revenge with deep, unfathomable streams of love and grace.

### **The Old Testament story continued**

Jonah knew that God was a relenting God of grace.

*"...for I knew that you are a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and you relent from the destruction."* (Jonah 4:2)

God says, *"Should I not have compassion on Nineveh the great city ..."* (Jonah 4:11)

### **The New Testament story (parallel) continued**

The Lord tells Peter that what God has cleansed he should no longer consider unholy. And Peter went out to meet the servants of the **GENTILE** centurion Cornelius. And so begins the inclusion of the gentile world into the church. (Acts chapter 10)

The ungrace world goes round until the mercy of God intervenes to break the deadlock. *"I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy."* Exodus 33:19

## **C. Grace in salvation:**

### **Salvation is by grace:**

*For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.* (Ephesians 2.8)

### **The invitation to the banquet is by grace:**

The poor, crippled, blind and lame are guests. Their only right to be there is that God called them by his grace. (Luke 14)

## **D. Grace in our common daily relationships**

(Romans 12. 1,6,16,17,19)

- Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed...
- We have - gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.
- Be of the same mind toward one another.
- Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.
- Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God.