



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 12:35-43
From sermon 7.28.24

Read *John 12:35-43*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Jesus is now giving His final words to the public. He will focus almost exclusively on the Apostles for the final days. Before we breakdown His words and the public reaction, we need to spend some time reviewing some traits of God. Namely His patience and His limits. These are two neglected, misunderstood, and misinterpreted characteristics. That is a tragic mistake.

1. What are Common Graces? Those benevolent gifts God bestows on all mankind, regardless of their election unto salvation (saving grace). Examples: life, provisions—air, water, food. Light. Joy, family, love. Nature/creation. Order, law, government. The Church.

1a. Displaying His limits on sin and rebellion, the book of Revelation foretells the systematic removal of all Common Graces. List: Order, government, joy, light, creation, love, water, food, and air.

2. Read *Psalms 103:8-10*. How is the patience (longsuffering/forbearance) of God a Common Grace?

- He didn't destroy Adam and Eve and their descendants. Instead, He implemented redemptive history.
- He does not strike the sinner down where they stand (usually).

3. Someone once said: "The worst thing that can happen to sinner is to get away with their sin." What makes that statement true? What makes that statement incomplete? True: when we "get away" with a sin, it makes us think less of its gravity and we're much more likely to repeat it. Incomplete: no one ever actually gets away with sin. It's either placed in the sinner's account for future judgment or in Christ's account at the Cross on the sinner's behalf. See Romans 6:23

4. How is the gracious patience of God taken advantage of and misconstrued? It is mistaken as God's indifference, approval or even blessing.

5. God's patience has a limit. Discuss these examples:

- Adam and Eve
- Noah's culture
- The pagan Amorites—*Genesis 15:16*
- Israel & Judah
- Evangelism towns of Jesus and the Apostles
- Church-planting cities of Paul and his team
- This sinful, fallen world—See *Revelation 18:3-5*

6. How will the cross be the end of a grace for those rejectors in Jesus' earthly ministry? They have the Light of Light walking among them, the greatest provided truth and power. If they won't listen to Jesus, they won't listen at all. It's never a matter of evidence. The Apostles will scatter, and Israel will fall in one generation. See also *John 3:18-20*