



RADICAL GOD

Part 2: Radical Grace | Matthew 1:18-23

God's radical grace is powerful and present for you.

God's Grace is Radical

Matthew 1:21a, "*she will give birth to a Son ...*"

Philippians 2:6-8, Ephesians 1:3-10

Mary's Song

by Luci Shaw

Blue homespun and the bend of my breast
keep warm this small hot naked star
fallen to my arms. (Rest ...
you who have had so far to come.)
Now nearness satisfies
the body of God sweetly. Quiet he lies
whose vigor hurled a universe. He sleeps
whose eyelids have not closed before.
His breath (so slight it seems
no breath at all) once ruffled the dark deeps
to sprout a world. Charmed by doves' voices,
the whisper of straw, he dreams,
hearing no music from his other spheres.
Breath, mouth, ears, eyes
he is curtailed who overflowed all skies,
all years. Older than eternity, now he
is new. Now native to earth as I am, nailed
to my poor planet, caught
that I might be free, blind in my womb
to know my darkness ended,
brought to this birth for me to be new-born,
and for him to see me mended
I must see him torn.

Why would the One who has all power become helpless?
Why would He leave the glory of heaven for the grime of earth?
Why would the Creator of the world be created in a womb?

"Think of a pearl diver, first reducing himself to nakedness, then glancing up in mid-air, then gone with a splash, vanished, rushing down through green and warm water into the black and cold water, down through increasing pressure into the death-like region of ooze and slime and old decay; then up again, back to color and light, his lungs almost bursting, till suddenly he breaks surface again, holding in his hand the dripping, precious thing that he went down to recover. He and it are both covered now that they have come up into the light."

"Miracles" by C. S. Lewis

God's Grace is Powerful

Matthew 1:21b, "... and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

The magnitude of grace points to the magnitude of sin and our need for salvation.



O Emmanuel by He Qi

Ironically, Christmas, with all of our busyness, materialism, frustration, overindulgence, family mojo, and despair, illuminates our need for Jesus' powerful grace in our lives.

"There has never been a gift offered that makes you swallow your pride to the depths that the gift of Jesus Christ requires us to do so. Christmas means that we are so lost, so unable to save ourselves, that nothing less than the death of the Son of God himself could save us. That means you are not somebody who can pull yourself together and live a moral and good life." Tim Keller

God's Grace is Present

Matthew 1:23b, "and they will call Him Immanuel (which means 'God with us')."

"Every moment of every day the most significant happening in the entire universe is the radical availability of God's Presence. Yet, in almost every moment of every day we remain unaware of this generous gift." AJ Sherrill

Where do you need God's radical grace, power, and presence in your life today?