

Apply The Word

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KINGS & KINGDOMS

Message Info

Title:

Disruptive Grace

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

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Scriptures:

1 Kings 14:21-15:24

Theme: Take heart; God disrupts our inherited sin with his grace.

Introduction: Every earthly father would like to leave a good inheritance to his children (cf. Prov 13:22). Yet in one sense, the inheritance of every father is mixed at best: our children are significantly affected by our sins, and can often follow in our footsteps. However, the Lord in his mercy is able to upend the pattern of inherited sin so that it is not driving and determinative in our lives or the lives of our children.

We see both inherited sin and disruptive grace in the lives of 3 successive kings in Judah:

1. Compounding sin (14:21-31)

Rehoboam's rule sadly leads Judah into great evil: worship of idols, cult prostitution, sexual immorality, and political compromise.

He goes beyond the sins of his father, Solomon, compounding sin and deepening Judah's rebellion against the Lord.

The King of Egypt comes and plunders the riches of Jerusalem, taking away everything. It's the reversal of what happened at the exodus.

2. Disruptive Grace (15:1-8)

Rehoboam's son, Abijam, ruled only 3 years as king. But he walks in all the sins of his father, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord.

The condition of our hearts before and toward the Lord is *the* most important thing about us.

Yet we also see the Lord's mercy (vv. 4-5), in preserving Abijam's line through his son because of his promise to David and David's faithfulness.

3. Indicative hope (15:9-24)

Finally, the Lord raises up Asa to be king, and he does what is right in the Lord's eyes. What explains the change from his father and grandfather? There is only one possible reason: God's intervening grace. He alone breaks sin and establishes righteousness in our hearts.

All 3 kings reveal that we do need a king to lead us, and we need him to be greater than any human king could ever be. Jesus is the only king who has been wholehearted in his devotion and obedience to the Lord, and our hope is in him.

Questions:

1. Do you feel trapped by the sins of others, especially your parents?
2. How have you experienced God's disruptive grace? How do you need to experience it?
3. Given your past, what does faith look like for you at present?