

Sermon Notes Page
Pastor Kurt Tomlinson
The Grace of Les Misérables Week #5 – The Gift of Love
March 17, 2024
Song of Solomon 2:3-13

1. Week #1 – The Grace of Les Misérables – Luke 6:32-36
 - a. A story, set in 19th Century France, that can help us understand God’s Grace
 - b. Main Themes of Les Mis that we will explore: Grace, Justice, Poverty, and Love.
 - c. Main Characters: Jean Valjean, Javert, Fantine, Cossett, Marius.
2. Week #2 – Grace – the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit.
 - a. The Wesleyan Way of Salvation – Prevenient, Justifying, and Sanctifying Grace.
3. Week #3 – Justice and Grace – Matthew 5:38-39
 - a. The Justice of Javert – Legalistic and Absolute.
 - b. Repentance is how we accept God’s grace – Matthew 16:21-28.
4. Week #4 – The Poor Are Always With You – Matthew 26:6-13
 - a. The poverty of Fantine
 - b. Matthew 26 – Change of Tone – Jesus gives them a mandate to care for the poor.
 - c. Sanctifying Grace - Acts of Piety AND Acts of Mercy – make room at the table.
5. Week #5 – The Gift of Love
 - a. The World and love – Shakespeare, The Beatles, Jerry McGuire
 - i. This is the love of Marius and Cosette.
 - ii. Song of Solomon 2:3 – it is good to have this love.
 - b. Cosette – Only feels love *in relation to* someone else.
 - i. God’s grace – you are loved. No conditions.
 - ii. Matthew 3:17
 - c. Marius – Only feels love for the most recent thing.
 - i. Recency bias
 - ii. John Wesley – *On Zeal* – Galatians 4:8
 1. Grace transforms love to Zeal.
 2. Zeal transforms our faith.
 - d. Obedience vs. Love
 - i. Love + Obligation = Resentment.
 - ii. Love + Grace = Zeal
 - iii. Romans 8:5