

Sermon Notes Page  
Pastor Kurt Tomlinson  
The Grace of Les Misérables Week #6 – Building the Barricade  
March 24, 2024  
Mark 1:1-11

1. Week #1 – The Grace of Les Misérables – Luke 6:32-36
  - a. A story, set in 19<sup>th</sup> 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 – Song of Solomon 2:3-13
  - a. The story of Marius and Cosette
  - b. God’s grace – you are loved. Matthew 3:17
  - c. John Wesley – *On Zeal* – Galatians 4:8 – Grace transforms love to Zeal.
  - d. Obedience vs. Love – Love wins - Romans 8:5
6. Week #6 – Building the Barricade
  - a. In Les Mis, the Barricade is the final battle.
  - b. The tension of Jerusalem.
    - i. Sadducees – the establishment, the collaborators.
    - ii. Pharisees – wanted reform – a return to the glory of the past.
    - iii. Essenes – wanted purity – so they left to be by themselves.
    - iv. Zealots – wanted revolution – and prepared for violence.
    - v. The crowd – didn’t know what it wanted.
  - c. Jesus was the answer.
    - i. Palm Sunday parade.
    - ii. Good Friday – we have no King but Ceasar.
  - d. The Barricade = The Cross.
    - i. But the Barricade is the end.
    - ii. The cross is not the end – but that’s next week.
  - e. Take up your cross and follow Jesus.