

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Luke 15:1-10  
Lesson #8  
Lost and Found  
11/17/2019

## Three rational challenges to the Christian Faith

### 1. Is God there?

(the challenge of **naturalism**)

### 2. Does God care?

(the challenge of **deism**)

### 3. Is God fair?

(the challenge of **pluralism**)

(the challenge of **justice**)



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## How comfortable are we with the Grace of God?

Is God just in forgiving those who are truly evil and have destroyed the lives of others

(when they suffer no consequences in this life)

(and are promised eternal life hereafter apart from any moral reform.)



2

Nazi naval officer oversaw the creation of Nazi Germany's U-boat fleet, and was named by Hitler to be his successor as Fuhrer. After the Nuremberg trials he reportedly became a devout Christian and died in his sleep at age 89,

entering the presence of God as though he had never sinned.



Karl Dönitz



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John 8:11

“And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you.... Go. From now on sin no more.””



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## Background Context

- ✓ It is hard to overstate the sense of **shame / isolation** that comes for those who do not follow the rules in ancient Israel.
- ✓ God was seen through **the tone of the Law**, which is read “thou shalt not ...”.
- ✓ It was assumed that **Messiah** would repel sinners but Jesus attacked them.

### NOTE:

These parables find application in **every generation** including ours.

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## The Parables of the lost sheep and lost coin

*Luke 15*

“<sup>1</sup> Now all the **tax-gatherers and the sinners** were coming near Him to listen to Him. <sup>2</sup> And both the **Pharisees and the scribes** began to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> And He told **them** this parable, saying,”

✓ These parables speak to those who are **shamed** (excluded, unworthy, unclean).

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✓ **Self image is the tree** that bears the fruit of the Spirit or the works of the flesh.

“Shame is the most powerful, master emotion. It’s the fear that we’re not good enough.”  
**It is the root of our anger and anxiety.**



Brene Brown

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*Isaiah 55:7*

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, **for He will abundantly pardon.**”

*2 Samuel 24:14*

“I am in great distress, Let us now fall into the hands of the Lord for His mercies are great, **but do not let me fall into the hand of man.**”

✓ Those who bear God’s image too often act as **Satan’s ambassadors.**

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“<sup>4</sup> What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it?” <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ <sup>7</sup> **I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.**”

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“<sup>8</sup> Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!’ <sup>10</sup> **In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.**”

✓ These parables are about **God’s joy and sinners’ repentance**, not God’s anger and sinners’ defensiveness.

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## These parables touch two audiences

- ✓ **Those who need to see the God of grace** who is searching and joyfully receiving penitent sinners.
- ✓ **Those who need freedom to forgive** and are called to share God’s heart with those who have offended.



**Forgiveness is at the heart of both God and His people.**

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"I believe forgiveness is the best form of love in any relationship. It takes a strong person to say they're sorry and an even stronger person to forgive."

Yolanda Hadid

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The attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 was led by Commander Mitsuo Fuchida whose life hero was Adolf Hitler.

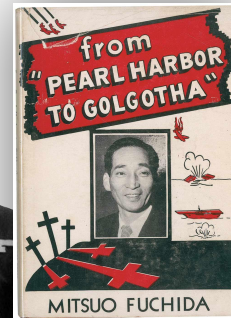
A rational for peace was sought as a part of a book title.

Margaret Peggy Covell's treatment of Japanese POW's

POW Jacob DeShazer B-25 bombardier converted and missionary to Japan



Mitsuo Fuchida



Fuchida becomes a Christian

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These two men stood on opposite sides of the front line in World War II. Mitsuo Fuchida was the chief commander of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Jacob DeShazer, a U.S. Army Air Force corporal, dropped incendiary bombs on Nagoya in a revenge raid. After the war, both became devout Christians and embarked on missions in each other's homeland. They eventually met – and forged a bond.



Mitsuo Fuchida

Jacob DeShazer

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## From shame to shalom via grace

### Know yourself

A poor self image is the doorway to God's grace.

### Accept yourself

The grace of God must first be applied to yourself.

### Get over yourself

Take your baptism seriously.  
You are dead to yourself and justified before God - PTL.

### Give yourself

The grace of God can never be kept to or for yourself.

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### 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

"9 Or do you not know that **the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

"11 **And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.**"

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"In the end, dear friend, it is always between us and God, not between us and them."

Mother Teresa



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### *Ephesians 4*

“<sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, **forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**”



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### **Jonah - a parable of repentance**

#### *Jonah 3:10*

“When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.”

#### *Jonah 4:1*

“But it greatly displeased Jonah, **and he became angry.**”

**In Jonah everyone repented in the end - Sailors, Jonah, Nineveh, and God.**

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