



Everybody Always: Counting The Cost | July 31, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

A 3-year-old's favorite's words are "why" and "but." They try to be master negotiators. And if we're honest, we often behave the same way when it comes to our faith. Read below to hear more.

Key Verses

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NIV)

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me."

Discussion

If you are a parent, or have spent time with toddlers, you've most likely heard the words "why" and "but." As soon as you ask them to do something, their first response is to ask "why?" And if they don't like your answer, their second response is usually "but." The truth is, most of us act the exact same way in our faith. If Jesus asks us to do something, we often ask "why?" And if we don't like what He's asked us to do, or if it makes us uncomfortable, we often start with "but."

1. Have you had this experience while interacting with toddlers? Why do you think these are their first reactions?
2. When is a time God's asked you to do something either internally or in the lives of others and you responded with "why" or "but?"

We often respond with "why," when Jesus asks something of us. Whether that's to give of our time, resources, money, etc., if it's going to cost us something, we want to know that it's really necessary. When Jesus asks us to do something in the lives of others, our typical response is "but." In his book, "Everybody Always," Bob Goff quotes an author who says that we make grace cost too little. In our own lives, we aren't aware of what grace actually costs, because if we were, it would prompt us to act without putting up a fight. He also quotes an author who says that we make grace cost too much. When it comes to loving other people, we need to make grace cost a little less. They don't need to do anything to deserve or earn it.

3. Why do you think we naturally respond with "why" when God asks something of us internally? What might this say about our nature?
4. Why do you think we jump to "but" when God asks something of us in the lives of others? Why is our gut reaction to judge and evaluate them?

In 1 Corinthians 15:10, we are reminded that we are asked to give because God first gave to us. It's not too much to ask for, because he was generous enough to give us the greatest gift we could have ever wanted or needed. In our own lives, we need to realize that God did something great in us and for us, and it's by his grace that we are able to give in response. And when we're tempted to ignore what God asks us to do in the lives of others, we need to remember that the same free grace we've been given, is extended to them as well. No matter what.

5. When was the first time you understood the concept of free grace? What does that mean in your life?
6. Do you act in a way where others would be able to see and perceive the concept of free grace? Explain.

What's Next?

When we are asked to give internally, instead of asking why, what if we just agreed and did it? And when God says to do something for others, what if instead of comparing or evaluating their merit, we simply agree because the same grace that we are given is extended to them as well? As adults, we often try to count the cost before we act. But what if instead we asked what it's going to cost if we don't act?

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, pick one way you can take action in our own life as if grace costs more. Additionally, pick one way you can take action in the lives of others to expose them to grace that is abundantly free and available to them.