



May 28, 2023  
Sunday Sermon Study Guide  
Pastor Lee Towns  
*Heartbeat: Stand In The Place Where You Live*

2 Peter 3:8-9; Acts 17:22-30; John 20:19-22; Matthew 28:18-20

*But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. (2 Peter 3:8-9 NLT-SE)*

*So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, 23 for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: To an Unknown God. This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about. 24 He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, 25 and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. 26 From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. 27 His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. 28 For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, We are his offspring. 29 And since this is true, we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone. 30 God overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him." (Acts 17:22-30 NLT-SE)*

*That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! Peace be with you," he said. 20 As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! 21 Again he said, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." 22 Then he breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:19-22 NLT-SE)*

*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20 NLT-SE)*

### **A Life Application Study Guide**

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

### **LESSONS TO EXPLORE**

1. Transformational Grace is for Everyone.
2. Where has God Placed You?
3. You have been Created with a Purpose

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. As Followers of Christ, we have been justified, chosen, empowered despite weakness, and freed from earning favor.

a. How does your everyday life illustrate these attributes to those close to you?

b. How would you define each attribute if asked to share your faith story?

c. When have you experienced the truth that you have been chosen by God?

2. God has located you with an address and a purpose to introduce everyone in your sphere of influence to transformational grace. But repentance is a part of that process.

a. How do you talk about your own salvation story and the point at which you pivoted toward Jesus and the grace offered through His sacrifice on the cross?

b. Name the places and people with whom you have regular contact and influence. Who in these locations has heard the Gospel woven through your story? We are reminded in 2Peter 3 that God does not desire that anyone should perish. What is your reasonability in the location where you have been placed with those entrusted to you?

c. Look at the passage in Acts 17, how did Paul leverage his opportunity to share the Gospel?

3. Where do you see evidence that God strategically placed you in previous locations as you reflect back on past experiences?

a. How did God use you in the life of an individual or a team at work or in your neighborhood? What was the impact evident in the lives of those that He placed in your path?

b. Now consider where you are today if God has relocated you. Who are the people new to you in this new location?

c. How have you intentionally invited them into your world where they can see firsthand God at work in you?

d. In what ways does the John 20 passage give you the courage to allow God to use you where He has currently located you?

### **MAKING IT REAL**

- This week, allow God to show you at least one person that you have overlooked.
- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to share your faith story with that individual