


# Great Sin, Greater Grace: A 5-Day Devotional

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## Day 1: The Heart of the Problem

 Scripture to Read: Genesis 6:5-6; Romans 5:12; James 1:14-15; Psalm 14:1-3

### Devotional

Genesis 6 drops us into a bleak moment in human history. Wickedness wasn't just present—it was pervasive. Every thought, every intention, every motive of the human heart was corrupt. The world wasn't slipping—it was sprinting toward destruction.

But did you notice what broke God's heart? Not just behavior, but the heart behind the behavior. Verse 5 says every intention was "only evil continually." This is a picture of total depravity—the idea that sin touches every part of who we are: our thoughts, motives, desires, and actions.

What's even more staggering is how God responds: He's grieved. This isn't impersonal anger or distant judgment—it's relational sorrow. God made humanity in His image, for communion with Himself. But now that image is marred, and that relationship is broken.

Genesis 6 isn't just a snapshot of ancient wickedness—it's a mirror. Apart from Christ, we are no different. Our sin is not just in what we do but in who we are. And that's why grace is not just helpful—it's necessary. If we don't see the depth of our sin, we'll never grasp the wonder of God's mercy.

### Reflection Questions

- Do you tend to think of sin more as a behavior or a condition of the heart?

- What emotions do you think God feels when He sees sin in the world today?
- What do these verses reveal about God's character?

### Practical Application

Spend 5 minutes today asking God to search your heart (Psalm 139:23–24). Confess areas where sin has crept in—not just in actions, but in attitudes and desires.

### Prayer

Father, I confess that I often downplay the seriousness of my sin. I look at actions but ignore the condition of my heart. Thank You that You are not indifferent to sin—You grieve over it. Help me see my sin the way You see it, and remind me that Your grace is greater than my failures. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 2: When God Grieves

 Scripture to Read: Genesis 6:6–7; Ezekiel 18:23; Luke 19:41–44; Ephesians 4:30

### Devotional

One of the most jarring statements in the Bible is this: “The LORD regretted that He had made man.” At first glance, it may seem like God made a mistake or changed His mind. But that’s not what’s happening here.

This is anthropomorphic language—God speaking in human terms so we can understand something of His heart. God doesn’t regret in the same way we do, as if He lacked foresight. Rather, this is a glimpse into His holy sorrow. It’s divine grief over the depth of human wickedness.

Verse 6 says God was grieved to His heart. That’s profound. The One who made the universe is emotionally invested in His creation. Sin doesn’t just violate His commands—it breaks His heart.

This truth should change the way we see sin. Too often, we think of it in terms of guilt or consequence. But sin is also relational—it wounds the heart of the God who loves us. Just as a parent grieves when a child goes astray, so God is pained by our rebellion.

Yet this grief doesn’t paralyze Him. God responds with righteous judgment. He doesn’t overlook sin—He acts against it. The flood wasn’t random wrath. It was a holy cleansing of a world saturated in evil.

But even here, we begin to see that God’s judgment is always aimed at renewal, not destruction for its own sake. And that’s the beauty of His character: He is both just and merciful.

### Reflection Questions

- What does God's grief over sin reveal about His love?
- How do you typically respond when you realize you've sinned—do you feel regret or godly sorrow?
- In what ways do you see God's justice and mercy working together?


### Practical Application

Ask God to soften your heart toward sin—not just to hate the consequences but to grieve that it offends His holiness and love.

### Prayer

Lord, I never want to take sin lightly. Help me feel the weight of how my sin grieves You. I'm grateful that You are both holy and loving, just and merciful. Give me a heart that turns from sin and runs toward grace. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 3: The Corruption of the Heart

 Scripture to Read: Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10–18; Matthew 15:18–19

### Devotional

Genesis 6:5 doesn't just say people were sinning—it says that every intention of the thoughts of their hearts was evil. This is a deep diagnosis of the human condition. Sin isn't just about bad behavior—it's about a corrupted heart.

We live in a world that teaches us to trust our hearts, follow our feelings, and “be true to ourselves.” But Scripture paints a different picture: our hearts, apart from God's grace, are desperately sick (Jeremiah 17:9). That's the doctrine of total depravity—not that we're as bad as we could possibly be, but that every part of us is touched by sin.

Left unchecked, sin spreads. From Adam and Eve's disobedience to Cain's murder to Genesis 6's rampant corruption, sin spirals. That same spiral happens in our own lives—unless we're anchored in God's grace.

But here's the good news: the Bible doesn't leave us in despair. What we see in Genesis 6 is that God sees the heart—and He also changes hearts. Through the gospel, God gives us new hearts (Ezekiel 36:26), not just new habits.

So let's not pretend we're fine on our own. Let's be honest about our need—and run to the One who can cleanse and renew.

### Reflection Questions

- What areas of your heart do you try to keep hidden from God?
- Have you ever tried to change yourself without asking God to change your heart?
- How does the truth of total depravity lead us to a greater appreciation of grace?


### **Practical Application**

Confess one hidden struggle to God today. Ask Him to transform you from the inside out.

### **Prayer**

God, I admit that my heart is often divided and prone to sin. I need more than behavior change—I need heart change. Thank You that through Jesus, You give new hearts. Keep shaping me by Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 4: Grace, Not Merit

 Scripture to Read: Genesis 6:8; Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 3:5–7; Romans 11:5–6

### Devotional

Genesis 6:8 might be the most hope-filled verse in a dark chapter. After all the descriptions of wickedness, corruption, and grief, we read: “But Noah found favor...”

The word “favor” in Hebrew is the same word for grace. This verse is not saying Noah was sinless or that he earned God’s approval. Genesis 9:21 reminds us that Noah, too, was flawed. So why did God show him grace? Because grace is never earned—it’s given.

Noah didn’t find grace because he was good. He found grace because God is good. This is a beautiful reminder that salvation has always been by grace, not works. Even in the Old Testament, God’s redemptive plan rests not on man’s performance but on His mercy.

Noah becomes a type—a shadow—of Christ. Just as God preserved humanity through one man, Noah, so He saves sinners through one greater Man—Jesus Christ. And just as the ark sheltered Noah from judgment, so Jesus is our refuge.

This verse reminds us that grace breaks into judgment. God didn’t have to save anyone—but He did. And that same grace is offered to you and me today.

### Reflection Questions

- Have you ever believed that God’s grace depended on your performance?
- How does understanding grace as unearned favor change your view of God?
- What makes Jesus the better Noah?

### **Practical Application**


Write out a short prayer of gratitude today, thanking God for specific ways He's shown you grace you didn't deserve.

### **Prayer**

Father, I thank You that Your grace isn't based on my goodness, but on Yours. Like Noah, I've found favor—not because of who I am, but because of who You are. Thank You for saving me through Jesus, the true ark. In Jesus' name, Amen!



## Day 5: Living in the Days of Noah

 Scripture to Read: Genesis 6:1-8; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Hebrews 11:7; Matthew 24:36-39; John 3:16-17

### Devotional

Jesus compared the days before His return to the days of Noah—days marked by business as usual, moral decline, and spiritual apathy. People were eating, drinking, marrying—life was going on, but no one was prepared for judgment.

Does that sound familiar?

Our world is filled with headlines of violence, rebellion, and disregard for God's Word. We're not just living in difficult times—we're living in the kind of times Jesus warned us about.

But here's the call: don't be asleep. Don't get lulled into comfort and compromise. Just as Noah walked with God in a generation that walked away from Him, we are called to live counterculturally—to be faithful, watchful, and obedient.

Noah didn't just receive grace—he responded to it. He built the ark, obeyed God, and preached righteousness. Likewise, grace compels us to act. We don't just believe—we build. We don't just wait—we witness.

Are you living like Jesus could return at any moment? Because He could.

### Reflection Questions

- In what ways do you see the “days of Noah” in our world today?
- Are you spiritually alert or spiritually distracted right now?
- What does it look like to walk with God in a world that rejects Him?

### **Practical Application**

Set aside time this week to share the gospel with someone. Don't just know the truth—pass it on.

### **Prayer**

Lord, I want to walk with You like Noah did. Help me live faithfully in these days—resisting sin, proclaiming truth, and staying ready for Your return. Keep me awake and alive to Your calling. In Jesus' name, Amen!