

Illustrations of Grace + Man's reactions to it

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II Kings 5:1-15

Luke 15:29-30

v. 3~~4~~ - unaware of the resources there all the time - he wanted a double benefit for being good

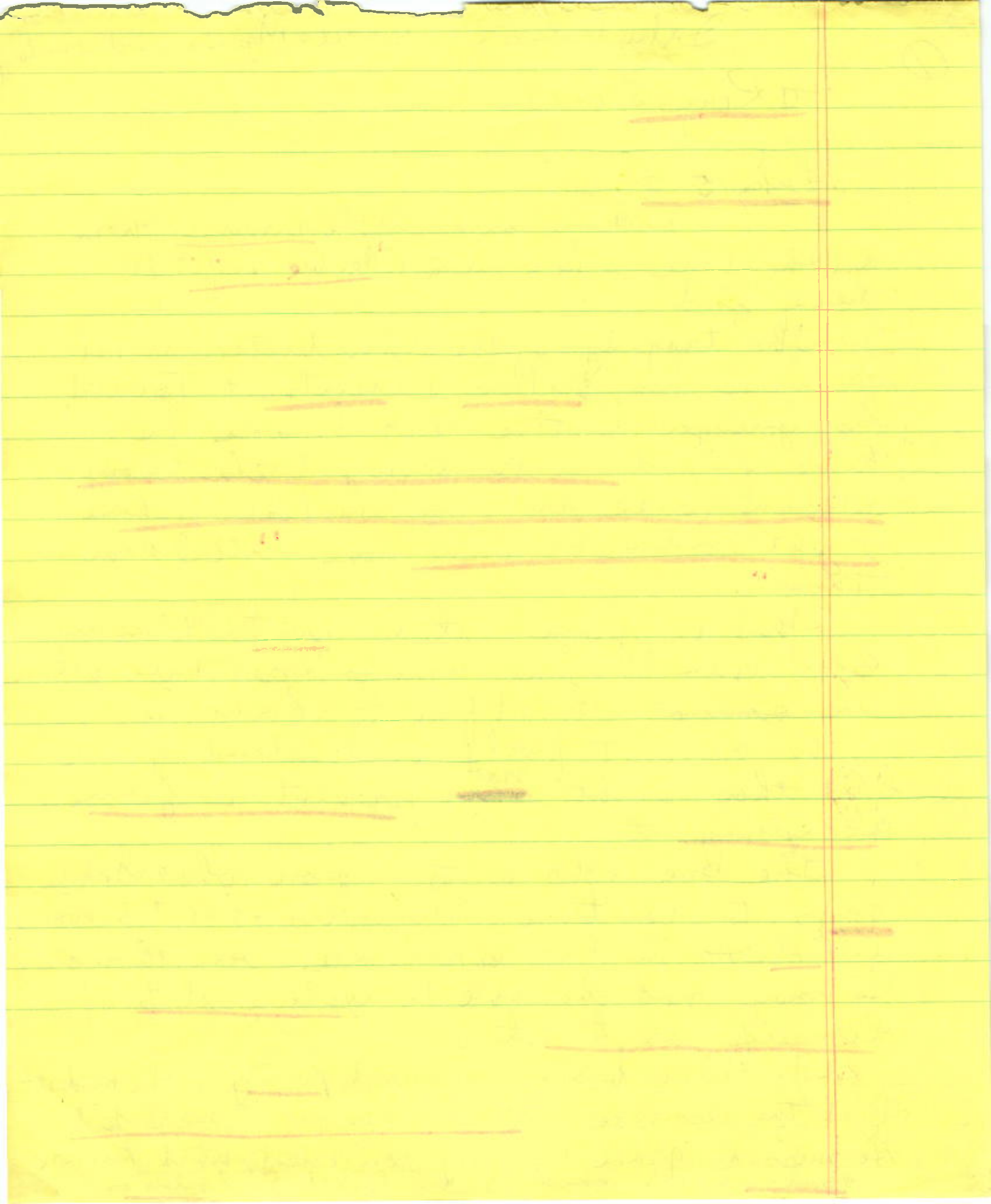
The tragedy of the elder brother is not so much his jealousy & resentment toward his younger brother, but because he himself had never enjoyed the resources which were always available to him right under his own nose "all I have is chine".

This is grace - it is greater than we can even imagine and is operative when we ~~cannot~~ do not feel it should be.

We cannot fully understand grace but this ought ~~not~~ prevent us from accepting it

The one who acts upon what God says to be true discovers that it becomes a FACT in his experience even though he may not be able to explain it to himself or to others.

The older brother suffered poverty in the midst of all the resources "thou never gavest me a kid" He missed grace by being concerned with his own goodness compared to his brother's badness



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II Kings 5:1-15

Naaman's cure is a perfect pre-Christ picture of grace - Here was a good man, a strong man, position, prestige

'But he was a leper' - a type of sin
He was utterly helpless - Only God had the remedy

He sought God's help through his spokesman Elisha + was given a simple, uncomplicated suggestion. - He could not accept it

In anger + arrogance he turned to go almost missing the very help he needed

His greatness (humanly speaking) was his weakness - he wanted something difficult to do

He was talked into it by his servants - and was healed

Man is always irrationally resisting GRACE because man wants to "pay his own way" with difficult + heroic tasks - his own accomplishments

Grace excludes human achievement in any degree whatever - or human goodness

Either God deals with man in grace or in judgment - there is no 'spiritual neutralism'

Pride often puts man in the position of refusing grace and choosing judgment

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