

## Outline

### ## I. Introduction

- A. Encouragement for Easter outreach
- B. Invitation to invite community members to church
- C. Recognition that people need Jesus

### ## II. Scripture Focus: Ephesians 3:8-9

- A. Returning to previously covered passage
- B. Scripture's inexhaustible depth
- C. Two big ideas:
  - 1. The unfathomable riches of Christ
  - 2. The administration of the mystery hidden by God

### ## III. Understanding "Unfathomable"

- A. Greek meaning: cannot be traced out or mapped
- B. English nautical origin: too deep to be measured
- C. Paul's testimony: decades of preaching, still haven't hit bottom
- D. Christ's attributes are inexhaustible:
  - Love is not shallow
  - Mercy doesn't run out
  - Patience doesn't wear thin
  - Kindness continues generationally
  - Faithfulness is inexhaustible
  - Grace is unending

## ## IV. Four Jewels in the Crown of Grace

### ### A. First Jewel: Forgiveness

1. Greek word: ἄφεσις (aphesis) - release, dismissal, letting go
2. Luke 4:18 - Jesus proclaiming release to captives
3. Picture of chains falling off, prison doors opening
4. Ledger book analogy:
  - Every sin recorded
  - Pages ripped out and dipped in Christ's blood
  - Writing gone, stains absorbed
5. Colossians 2:14 - debt nailed to the cross
6. Result: Live like someone released, not a prisoner

### ### B. Second Jewel: Justification

1. Greek word: δικαίωσις (dikaiosis) - to declare righteous
2. Romans 5:1 - justified by faith, peace with God
3. Courtroom imagery:
  - Evidence stacked against us
  - Jesus takes our penalty
  - Judge declares us free
4. "Just-As-If-I'd" never sinned
5. 2 Corinthians 5:21 - exchange of righteousness
6. Differences from forgiveness:
  - Forgiveness: "You're not guilty anymore"
  - Justification: "You are declared righteous—fully accepted"
7. God sees Christ's perfect obedience when He looks at believers

8. Cannot un-justify yourself - verdict is settled

### ### C. Third Jewel: Redemption

1. Greek word: ἀπολύτρωσις (apolutrōsis) - release by paying ransom
2. Ephesians 1:7 - redemption through His blood
3. Slave market imagery:
  - Roman slavery context
  - Christ paying extraordinary price
  - Receiving bill of freedom
4. Three tenses of redemption:
  - Past: redeemed from penalty of sin
  - Present: being redeemed from sin's power through sanctification
  - Future: will be redeemed from sin's presence at Christ's return
5. Christ's blood as currency of freedom
6. Grace is free but not cheap
7. Old master (sinful nature) has no legal claim
8. Chains lie at the foot of the cross

### ### D. Fourth Jewel: Adoption

1. Greek word: υἰοθεσία (huiiothesia) - to place as a son
2. Used in Romans 8, Galatians 4, Ephesians 1:5
3. Salvation is not just judicial but familial
4. Roman adoption context:
  - Legal proceeding for adults
  - Chosen worthy person
  - Lost all ties to past family

- Gained full inheritance rights

- Irreversible once sealed

5. Noble choosing slave analogy:

- Price paid

- Brought home

- Dressed in fine robes

- "Call me Father"

6. John 1:12 - right to become children of God

7. Results of adoption:

- Intimacy with God

- Cry "Abba, Father"

- Discipline is fatherly formation

- Run TO Father when we fail, not FROM

## ## V. Conclusion: The Complete Picture

A. Four jewels side by side:

- Justification grants righteousness before God

- Redemption breaks sin's bondage

- Adoption restores relationship as children

B. Timeline perspective:

- Forgiveness washes past away

- Justification anchors present standing

- Redemption carries into new freedom

- Adoption lifts into Father's arms

C. Inexhaustible depths of God's love

D. Invitation to receive these riches:

- Cannot be earned, bargained for, or bought
- Must be received by faith
- Door of grace stands open

E. Paul's testimony: "To me, though I am the least of all the saints, this grace was given"

## ## VI. Closing Prayer

- A. Thanksgiving for unfathomable riches
- B. Request to live as freed, righteous, redeemed, beloved children
- C. For God's glory