

## Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 2

Sunday, April 18



Best Nest in the Hocking Hills, Ohio

In their book, *If Grace is True*, Philip Gulley and James Mulholland introduce a woman named “Sally” and then talk about her funeral.

“A good funeral not only should speak the truth about the person, it should ring true about God. It should speak of a Father who does not abandon his children. Even the Sallys of our world. Especially the Sallys of our world.

A good funeral should also speak of grace. Now by *grace*, I don’t mean an unexpected reward earned by good people. Neither do I mean a divine gift offered grudgingly to a chosen few. I don’t mean any notion that slips easily and naturally into our tidy formulas. By *grace*, I mean God’s unfailing commitment to love.\*”

*Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” Luke 15:11-20*

\* If Grace Is True (Pg 7); Philip Gulley and James Mulholland