

Going Deeper Questions
Dismounting a High Horse
Ephesians 2:1-10
February 7, 2010

1. Jeremy started with sharing a little history about America. Are you at all a history buff? Is there anything in our history that you find interesting or noteworthy? What value, do you think, knowing history has (if any)?
2. The title of the sermon was “Dismounting a High Horse.” Have you ever felt like you have been on a high horse (you know, feeling a sense of self-importance)? Most people can name others that they think ride a high horse, but we are slow to see it in ourselves (would you agree or disagree with that)? Explain.
3. In Ephesians 2:1-3 Paul wants to help us avoid getting up on our high horse. Verses 2 and 3 give us explanations as to what we did given the truth that we all were dead (v.1). See if you can pull out at least three ways we lived lives separated from God. Was that true of you? In what ways? How much do those things still have sway over you?
4. According to Ephesians 2:4-5 what is the remedy to not have our trespasses and sins have power over us? (Let these verses really speak to you—they are critical in understanding our Christianity.)
5. How about reading Ephesians 2:4-7. In verses 6 and 7 what does God want to do? How have you seen God’s *surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward* you?
6. Jeremy read a quote from J.I. Packer’s book, Knowing God. Read it again: “*What matters supremely, therefore, is not, in the last analysis, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it -- the fact that He knows me. I am graven on the palms of his hands. I am never out of His mind. All my knowledge of Him depends on His sustained initiatives in knowing me. I know Him, because He first knew me, and continues to know me... there is no moment when His eye is off me, or His attention distracted from me, and no moment, therefore, when His care falters. This is momentous knowledge. There is unspeakable comfort -- in knowing that God is constantly taking knowledge of me in love, and watching over me for my good. There is tremendous relief in knowing that His love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery now can disillusion Him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quench His determination to bless me*” (page 37).
 - a. Do you believe this? If this is true, what impact should it have on us?
 - b. What about the part that even though God knows the worst about you He still loves you and wants the very best for you? Why are so many of us so slow to trust this about God?
7. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Have you been shot through with His grace – not only to save you, but to give you a purpose and a calling? Do you know what that calling is today (it can be general and specific)?