



**Black and White: Radical Grace, Raw Truth and Real Hope in a Gray World
Podcast Episode #8: The Human Condition-We're only Human-Comparison
Denise Pass & Micah Maddox**

Denise

Thank you for joining us today and welcome back to Black and White. Where we speak radical race, raw truth and real hope in a gray world. I'm your host, Denise Pass with my co-host Micah Maddox and we are so glad that you came to listen today. Well Micah, here we are continuing this important series, addressing the elephant in the room and our many human frailties here in March. But also the awesome power of our great God to overcome all of our weaknesses. Today we are going to be talking about battling comparison. Let's kick this discussion off with a scripture from 2 Corinthians 10:12 we do not care, Ha ha ha, I can do this...

Micah

Ha ha! That's right!

Denise

Let's kick this discussion off with a scripture from 2 Corinthians 10:12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves, by themselves and compare themselves with themselves they are not wise. Micah, have you ever battled comparison?

Micah

Ha ha! Denise! You put me right on the spot! Wow! Now after reading that verse, I'm like...well...ha ha!

Denise

Ha ha!

Micah

Conviction! The show is done! Peace out we are done! Ha ha! Ummm wow! You know I definitely have battled comparison. I think its a constant struggle. I think it's something that I will feel like I conquer and I am really good. And something comes up and I see somebody else doing something so good and they are just amazing! And it seems like it's so blessed by God, what they are doing, and I am like oh man! I want some of that! How do I get there? How do I do that?! So, I think this is something that we consistently struggle with. You know, last week we talked about temptation. I think comparison is one of those temptations that the enemy puts before us, over and over and over. Comparison, is truly a contentment trap.

Denise

Yes, oh that's good!

Micah

Right? So it makes us totally trapped and not feel like we are ever enough.

Denise

Hmmmm

Micah

Not feel like we have enough

Denise

That is such a place I think a lot of people can identify with. This lack of worth and insecurity then that fuels the comparison. Oh boy! This one might be stepping on a lot of toes today I think. But you know what's great? The more we let our toes be stepped on. The more we want to have our shortcomings revealed, actually want that, the more we position ourselves into God's grace and the more we are made into His image.

Micah

I love that! I think it so, so important that we realize we are constantly being molded and shaped. And even though our life may not be what we want it to be. And we may not feel like it's perfect and it's not as good as so-and-so's and you know we just don't have it together like...they do. We are constantly being transformed, if we are keeping our eyes on Christ. Right? But here's the deal we are bombarded with everyone else's images all the time.

Denise

Hmmm

Micah

You know so I don't know about you, well actually I do know Denise, but my Facebook notifications are constantly ticking and dinging, and I am seeing what everyone else is doing.

Denise

Yes

Micah

And it can easily make me compare myself and feel like, you know what? I just don't quite have as good of a blog as she does. And I don't have a following like they have! And all of a sudden instead of focusing on the thing that God has called me to, I am focusing on my own self. And it's like...womp womp womp! Totally missed it Micah!

Denise

Ha ha!

Micah

Like sin in a cup I served it up! You know? And I think it's it's just so...let's start over...I think that with social media we have to suit up for battle even we just open a little app on our phone and see what everyone else is doing

Denise

We do and I think you just said something there at the end that I was just thinking. You know it is not about us.

Micah

Hmmm

Denise

Everything we are doing down here is for God's Glory! And so, if I am trying to compare to what He has another one of his servants doing, that's sin in my life. Ummm and I think that, a lot of times we do that because of going back to that insecurity and maybe jealousy or feeling maybe we don't measure up and God says, right where I have you is where I have you. You know I am writing the book, Shame Off You this year, and comparison is such a widespread cause of shame in our lives. Whether it is the perception of our need to measure up to others around us, or own ideas in our brain. Comparison robs us of the joyful and abundant life God has for us as His children! Why do you think we compare Micah?

Micah

Let me backup a second. So Denise just shared with you guys, she's writing her book! Shame Off You! She said it so chill!

Denise

Ha ha!

Micah

But its super exciting! Because tell us when your book comes out?

Denise

Uh I believe September! And I actually have to turn the manuscript in, which by the time you hear this podcast it will already be done! The podcast turned in...

Micah

Yayyyy!

Denise

Not podcast turned in...but I guess I could wish I was already at that spot in time...but right where I am at I am so enjoying just as I am writing, even being set free more from shame in my life.

Micah

Isn't amazing how when you write something...you know when I wrote my book it was like God was transforming me. You know this book obviously...

Denise

Uhh hmmm.

Micah

Your book and my book, they are going out to other people. And it's going to be a blessing, we may never know how many people it actually touches. I don't know about you, but personally, God changed my life through writing that!

Denise

Oh yeah!

Micah

He revealed Himself in ways that I had never experienced before.

Denise

Uh huh!

Micah

So we are really excited for you denise! And we cannot wait to see what God does with Shame Off You! Yayyy!

Denise

Praise the Lord!

Micah

So why do we compare? You know I think it's just our flesh...we want to be good enough, right?

Denise

Hmm

Micah

Everyone wants to be good enough! We want to be accepted. And we want to survive and we want to thrive! We want to succeed! And we have to decide, what's our measuring stick?

Denise

Right

Micah

You know? And a lot of times we do exactly what our key verse said not to do! Those who measure themselves by themselves are not wise! I do that! Often I will take the measuring stick of someone else's victories and say, hmmm are mine big enough? I'm like...man! Shame on me, right?

Denise

Ha ha! No! Shame off you friend! Shame off you!

Micah

Right? I need your book! Ha ha!

Denise

Well you know what? Comparison distracts us from God's best call on our lives. Our lives aren't supposed to look like anyone else's! And when we get in that trap, you know as you were saying earlier, trying to get in another lane. And trying to compare and say, oh I should be doing what they are doing. That is deception! And we get lost. And it's isn't ever supposed to look like what someone else is doing. And when we compare, it keeps us busy trying to perform, rather than being authentic... And boasting, in our weaknesses.

Micah

Hmmm

Denise

In order that God may be glorified. You know sometimes people can boast and brag. And sometimes when you stick yourself out there on social media people can even judge you for that. Like why are you, why are you out there doing that? I've just got to tell people about how good God is! He set me free! I am not doing it for me.

Micah

Amen

Denise

That's hay, wood, and stubble. But I will boast about my weaknesses and we've been doing some of that! Ha ha!

Micah

Ha ha! I have a confession!

Denise

Ha ha!

Micah

Oh...you know it really comes down to. How do we get out of this trap? Right? How do we stop comparing? And I don't know about you, but I have learned, especially in the calling that God has put on my life as a Christian author and as a speaker and as I am out traveling. You know being around other women who do similar things as I do. I have learned, that if I can stay in my lane, then I can be free of comparison. And what I mean is, you know I've gotta keep my eyes on Jesus. And I've got to say, if God wants me to do that event. He's going to invite me. Ha ha!

Denise

Amen

Micah

So instead of saying, I wish I could book more speaking engagements, or I wish I could go to that event and be their keynote speaker...no no no! If God wants me there, I would be invited there. And so, when I can stay in my lane and realize I am right where God wants me to be. If that's right here on this Black and White podcast or if that's with twelve women at a MOPS group that's ok. Because that's my lane and that's where God has me. And that's where I find peace, and I don't have to compare. And I don't need what someone else has because that's their lane. If we all ran in the same lane...

Denise

Ha ha

Micah

Right? We'd have a problem. We'd be tripping and falling, and I think that's the key. So as whoever is listening, I know there is women listening out there. That are like, yeah but you know Denise and Micah, they've got a podcast! Or you know so and so over here has written 52 books and she's been on the New York Times Bestseller. That's my goal...no no no. our goal should be, hey I want to please my Lord and my Savior. And if that means a New York Times Bestseller, well glory to God for that. But if that mean I sell 52 books out of the back of my trunk, praise God for that.

Denise

You know I've had those moments. Ha ha

Micah

Right?

Denise

But you know I think a lot of it just comes down to will we really take the assignment that God has for us?

Micah

Wow!

Denise

Do we want, you know, our idea, which is this glamor idea? You know we don't know the pain somebody had to walk through in the assignment that God has for them. The books that Micah has written that I have written, those came from a place of pain. Where God changed us, and you know every time I used to say to the Lord - you know Lord, if you wanna give me a song without me having to go through it first, I would LOVE it. Ha ha!

Micah

Ha ha! It's so funny you say that. I always tell my husband I don't want anything else to write about! Right? I don't want another book to write about. Because i write from the deepest hardest places.

Denise

Yes. well see I must be a glutton for punishment cause I am like give me another book! No but, it's just this, my heart is so stirred by getting in His Word and writing. You know?

But I think another way of getting out of comparison is truly avoiding, ummm, jealousy and adopting and cultivating a kingdom mentality. This kingdom mentality is fueled by God truth, grace and hope. Someone else's success could never color or affect what God is doing in my life.

Micah

That is so beautiful!

Denise

It's so...its so true, you know I think we try to think. Oh you know, it should look like that and if we just lay that down and say God I don't care what it looks like. I just want to be obedient. And I don't wanna compare to anyone else. And boy if you could just pray like that to the Lord. and ask Him to help us to just do what He has called us to do. And compare ourselves to just Christ alone. And say wow Lord, I fall so short. But His glory is enough to cover our mistakes. Amen?

Micah

Amen, I love that! You know especially in what we do Denise. I don't know...there's so many women that are wanting to do the same type of thing that we do. And that's awesome, I think it's

great! And I think if God has called you there you need to run with all your might, arms wide open. And just take flight in the call that God Has given you. But don't be distracted and deceived by seeing someone else's journey. And thinking yours should look the same, right?

Denise

Amen

Micah

You've gotta stay in your lane. And remember it's all for the kingdom.

Denise

Yes

Micah

It's for the kingdom. It's not so that I can be seen, right? But it's so that others can see clearly what God has for us. When we are doing this to want to be seen, that's when we know...oh wait, wait, wait. I'm comparing. Wait a second, if I want more likes, oh I'm comparing. If I need more followers...hmmm...man I'm crunching numbers and I'm comparing and I'm missing it

Denise

Hmmm...that's so good. I think if we're able to let go of the results. That's a huge thing too because that's when we can idolize that. Instead of saying ok God, here I am, use me.

Micah

Uh huh

Denise

And I don't need to compare, and I don't need to worry about, hey this equals success. You know if I do this or if that happens. No, it's just being obedient and I like how Glynnis Whitwer says it, "there's enough pie for everyone to have a piece of the pie" because God's pie just keeps getting bigger. Comparison starts in the mind and we have a choice on what we think on.

Micah

That's so good, so here's where it comes down and the rubber meets the road for me is in my mothering, right? And I can...I have this job if you will and this ministry of being a speaker and an author, and it's awesome and wonderful. But my real full-time job is as a mama right now. And it's so easy and tempting to get distracted by what all the other mamas are doing out there. You know it's starts from the teenie tiny baby stage when it's like, do we breastfeed or do we not. And this group says, if you just breastfeed your baby, that's the best way! And you are like, Oh no! What am I gonna do Lord? And ummm... just to clarify out there, I am not telling you if I breast fed or not. We will just leave that up to mystery.

Denise

Ha ha!

Micah

But you know when we look at our mothering. When we look at if we, if you are a wife and look at other people relationships and when we start putting our eye on everyone around us, once again, it's like oh man. Wait a second, wait a second, I have a husband who need me. He doesn't need me to be like my neighbors, wife, right? I need to be in my lane and I need to stay in my lane as a mama. I need to stay in my lane as a wife. I need to stay in my lane as a woman. And as a child of God. and if I can do that, if I can stay in my lane and keep my eyes on Jesus, I can learn truly how to be content and not compare.

Denise

Well that is so needed today, and I will tell you...I will go there and say I nursed! Ha ha

Micah

Ha ha

Denise

But you know what? It hurt!

Micah

I do know!

Denise

I would look at the Norman Rockwell images and I'm like, God, why can't it be like that for me? But I was like the poster child for like least prepared. But you know I realized, even then, that it robbed my joy. And if I nursed or if I didn't or if I homeschooled or if I don't. Or if I let my kids do this or that. It goes on and on. It is not to be compared to other people. You have to follow the Lord's leading in your own life.

Micah

I agree, and I think that's where you know we talk about this podcast, Black and White and the gray area. When it comes down to it, God reveals for each family, for each woman for each person, what they should do in their life. I love how you talk about, you know, homeschool or not and for us it's like, ok homeschool, Christian school, public school! You know, what do we do? And it comes down to, hey, you've gotta do what's best for your family.

Denise

Yes

Micah

You've gotta do what's best for each child. I have friends who ones in public school, ones in private school, and one's home. You know, and it's like that's awesome!

Denise

It is

Micah

Because they are taking each child and saying God what would you have for this one? You know, and so don't let anybody dominate or try to tell you or convince you that what you are doing isn't right. If your following the will and way of God, right?

Denise

Yes and sometimes that can be hard because we can be so hard on ourselves. I know I have been. I think I am a recovering perfectionist. Ha ha! I like to think I have recovered to some degree! I am like kinda chill now compared to what I used to be! But you know there's such radical grace in what we are sharing today. When we compare ourselves to Christ we realize we never could measure up, and that is so freeing, but He covers us completely with His mercy and love.

Micah

I love that! And the raw truth is that you know what comparison makes us slaves to the fear of man it completely robs us of contentment. But the truth is that someone else's success can never color or affect what God is doing in my life.

Denise

That is profound. You know what I have learned to do? Is truly rejoice when I see other people accomplishing things, I realize it's God in them.

Micah

Isn't that awesome when you get to that place. You know we don't naturally do that, we naturally see someone's success and think man I've gotta run harder, I've gotta run faster. No no no, wait. No let 'em go!

Denise

Hey, you've never seen me run a 10K girl! Ha ha!

Micah

Ha ha!

Denise

Let me just tell you, it's not pretty! Ha ha! And I am a mess, but I am just glad to finish.

Micah

that's right, finish well! Finish well the race God has set before you. And finally the real hope we have is that when we can let go of comparison and embrace our identity in Jesus Christ we truly find joy. And we are able to reach the world around us that needs God so desperately. The only way we can truly be the light and the hope that we need to be is when we realize hey I need to stay in my lane. God has a plan and will for my life. Did you know God has a will and a plan for your life? Go run that race this week

Denise

Amen

Micah

You have been listening to the Black and White podcast where we filter life through the Bible and live life through the truth. Don't just know truth, go live it.