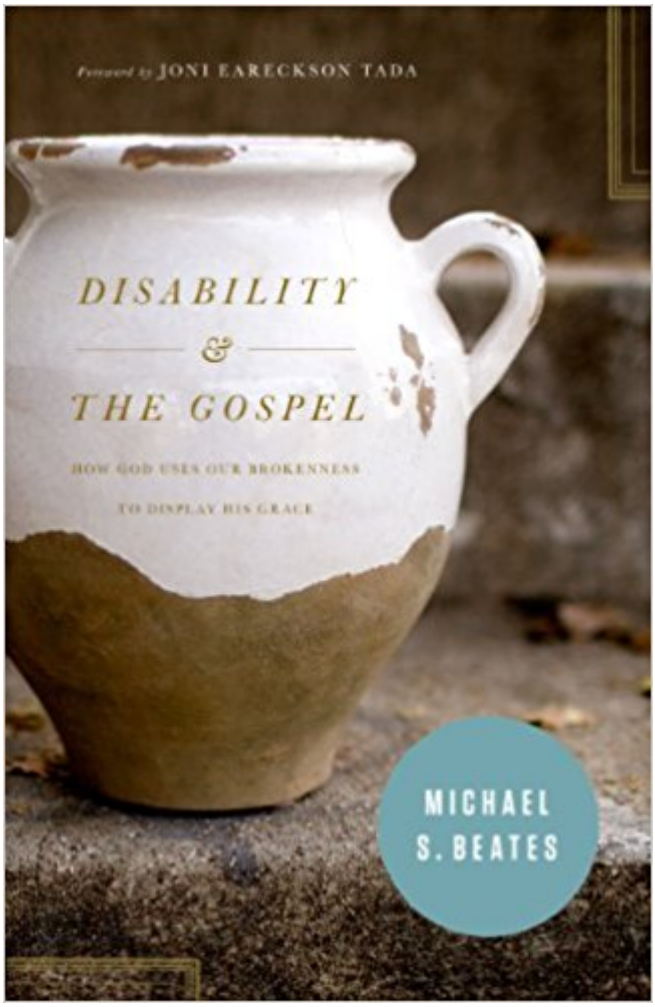
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Disability And The Gospel: How God Uses Our Brokenness To Display His Grace



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Synopsis

Michael Beates's concern with disability issues began nearly 30 years ago when his eldest child was born with multiple profound disabilities. Now, as more families like his are affected by a growing number of difficulties ranging from down syndrome to autism to food allergies, the need for church programs and personal paradigm shifts is greater than ever. Working through key Bible passages on brokenness and disability while answering hard questions, Michael offers helpful principles for believers and their churches. He shows us how to embrace our own brokenness and then to embrace those who are more physically and visibly broken, bringing hope and vision to those of us who need it most.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Crossway; 1 edition (July 31, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1433530457

ISBN-13: 978-1433530456

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #172,801 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #106 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Disabled #1896 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism #9889 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living

Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Disability and the Gospel tackles head-on the spoken and too often unspoken questions about disability. Well researched and at times provocative, Michael Beates digs beyond the surface in search of reconciliation among the realities of suffering, disability, and the teachings of Scripture. Disability and the Gospel is an important work that reveals not only a biblical worldview on physical disability, but gives comforting confirmation that God is indeed always sovereign, always in charge, and all purposeful.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Doug Mazza, President, Joni and Friends International Disability CenterÃ¢â ¬Å“Mike Beates has been a good friend for twelve years, and IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve observed his godly character as well as heard and read his insightful teaching. I have read Disability and the Gospel at several stages, and I recommend it highly. The church needs to be awakened to

the presence of the disabled in our communities and, as Mike stresses, to the disabilities we all have as sinners in need of GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grace. The book contains excellent exegesis, theology, and historical studies that make a powerful case. I donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know a better place to hear GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Word on this important matter.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •John M. Frame, professor of systematic theology and philosophy emeritus, Reformed Theological Seminary, OrlandoÃ¢â ¬Å“Why should the church embrace people with disabilities? Because they need us? Perhaps. But in Disability and the Gospel, Michael Beates reminds us that the transforming power of the gospel can only be ours when we, the able-bodies, admit our own brokenness and weakness and learn the truth that God uses the weak people of this world to confound the wise. The church has as much to learn form people with disabilities as she has to give to them.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Dawn Clark, Director of Disability Ministries, College Church, Wheaton, IllinoisÃ¢â ¬Å“Disability and the Gospel is a wonderful book! ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s biblical, profound, practical, and challenging. It is also a book written at the right time and by the right person. Every Christian in America needs read this book, and every church should study it, underline it, and live it! What a gift Michael Beates has given to us and to those to whom the church is called to show mercy, understanding and compassion. I rise up and call Mike Beates blessed. Read this book. You will too!Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Steve Brown,Ã Â Host, Key Life Radio Program; author, Three Free Sins: God Isn't Mad At YouÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“In Disability and the Gospel, Michael Beates urges Christians to invite people with disabilities into our churches and our lives not because they need our help, but because worshiping and ministering alongside people with disabilities helps us to recognize our own brokenness and learn that GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grace is most apparent and powerful when we are most weak and wounded. While my own theology of disability differs from BeatesÃ¢â ¬â„¢s in significant ways, I recommend this thorough, accessible book for pastors, congregations, and individuals who want to engage more fully with those in their communities living with disabilities, and thus live out the Gospel in new and transforming ways.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Ellen Painter Dollar, author, No Easy Choice:Ã Â A Story of Disability, Parenthood, and Faith in an Age of Advanced Reproduction

Michael S. Beates (DMin, Reformed Theological Seminary) is the husband of Mary and father of seven children, one of whom lives with profound disabilities and two others who face challenges. Mike has served on the International Board of Directors at Joni and Friends since 2000 and has been involved in Christian ministry for 30 years. He also serves as dean of students at the Geneva School in Winter Park, Florida.Ã Â Mike has written more than 50 articles for publications such as Tabletalk magazine and the Orlando Sentinel and has contributed chapters to several books

focusing on disabilities and hope.Joni Eareckson Tada is founder and CEO of the Joni and Friends International Disability Center, which ministers to thousands of disabled people and their families through programs of practical encouragement and spiritual help. She is also an artist and the author of numerous best-selling books such as Joni; Heaven: Your Real Home; and When God Weeps.

I have read and reviewed several books that I wish everyone would read; This is the first book I have read and immediately purchased a dozen copies to give away to people to make sure they read it. Michael Beates offers readers a substantive, theological look at disability and the gospel. His message has certainly changed the way I perceive the disabilities of others and of myself.This book shows how our disabilities fit into the gospel, and the conclusion points to the reality that all of us broken sinners have disabilities. Beates reveals the role of those with "apparent" disabilities in relation to God’s sovereignty and his goodness. What we learn is that God has his purposes, and we learn how the church has responded to God’s working in and through the disabled.The book takes readers through a survey the topic of disability in the context of the Old Testament, the New Testament, the early church, influential theologians and contemporary voices. This is enlightening and well done. We begin to see a contrast in God’s view and the world’s view when it comes to the human weakness and brokenness. Along the way, Beates adroitly quotes relavant citations from others including several from Joni Eareckson Tada who suffered paralysis and has developed a worldwide ministry. Beates writes with significant depth and breadth in these surveys.Beates incorporates the full gospel message in this book and emphasizes the inclusivity of the salvation of Jesus Christ for all people. I have been convicted to examine my own relationship with the disabled and how I have influenced my church and family to respond to those with special needs. I think the way I look at all people has been changed for the better by this book.I encourage you to read this book, and when you have the same passionate response I did I hope you will encourage others to read it too.

Ok, good stuff!

nice

This book is amazing and written from the perspective that our Lord is Sovereign in ALL things. What the scriptures have to say, what theologians have to say in past and present, and our culture. It shows how our Lord uses the weak, the broken to show His wonder and His Grace. I highly

recommend it. we are using it in our Sunday School class. I, myself am disabled since 1996 and I love this book.

I was very excited to read this book, but after reading a majority of it, I decided not to finish it. There was too much "blame and shame" against the church. I'm not saying that some churches don't need to be more accommodating to the disabled, because some do, but not all churches and Christians view people with disabilities the way it was portrayed many times throughout the book. I wished it would have addressed the good things that people are doing for the disabled just as much as it addressed the improvements that are needed. I also totally disagreed with the stance that God "causes" the disabilities. I believe God uses everything for His good, even things that are extremely difficult to us, but I don't believe He causes all disabilities. Since He is all knowing and is in charge of everything, He allows disabilities, but there is a big difference in causing a disability compared to allowing it to happen and then using it for our good and His glory. Job is a perfect example of this. God didn't cause his pain, but God allowed Satan to inflict him with multiple physical and mental trials, and then He turned them into Job's good and His glory. In the end, God always wins, and since He is for us, we also win. I do appreciate the topic being addressed, but in my opinion, the book's approach wasn't for me. I ended up giving it 3 stars because I did appreciate the comments from Joni. I have tremendous respect and admiration for her.

We used this as a bible study. Really made us think.

Good book.

I am reading this book a second time and going more in depth to the accompanied scripture. God is using it to help me see His power as perfect and His sovereignty as loving in my weaknesses.

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