

The Parable of the Loving Father and His Two Lost Sons

Scripture: Luke 15

Also: Proverbs 18:24

Questions

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
2. In the opening verses of the chapter (Luke 15:1-2), Luke distinguishes between two groups of people: those who want to be near Jesus (the "sinners"), and those who grumble about Jesus' relationship with those people who want to be near Him.
 - Which group would you place yourself in? Why?
 - The Pharisees and scribes (those considered to be religious/righteous) who were grumbling about Jesus' relationship with those they considered sinners didn't realize that everyone Jesus had a relationship with was a sinner!
 - How do you react to that statement (that we're all sinners)? Why?
 - Who would the Pharisees and scribes grumble about in your relationship sphere?
3. In Luke 15: 11-32, two sons are described. Do you gravitate towards being like one or the other (rebellious or religious)? Why?
4. Read the rest of Luke 15
 - What was Jesus trying to communicate through these three parables?
 - What does it teach us about what God values?
 - Where do your values match God's? Where are they mismatched?
5. Who would you tend to view as "tax collectors and sinners"?
 - For instance, terrorists, criminals, those who vote differently than you, individuals who view human sexuality differently immigrants, the prideful, the closed-minded, those highly or lowly educated, the poor, etc?
 - Do you know anyone who is like that?
6. Do you give yourself the same grace that the father in the story gave the younger son who left?
7. Who is the Holy Spirit nudging you to love extravagantly this week?

Thank God that He "does not treat us as our sins deserve, or repay us according to our iniquities." Psalm 103:10, NIV