

Group/Individual Study

Series - The Greatest Stories Ever Told: The Prodigal Son

Passages: Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 7/15

1. Read Luke 15:1-2. Who was in the audience when Jesus told the parable of the prodigal son? Which brother do you think the tax collectors and sinners related to? Which brother do you think the Pharisees and the teachers of the law related to?
2. In Chapter 15 Jesus actually spoke three parables to His very diverse audience. What do you think the first two parables (the lost sheep, the lost coin) added to the point Jesus was making in the parable of the prodigal son?
3. What do you think motivated the younger son to want the father's wealth more than he wanted relationship with the father? Do you ever find yourself more interested in the benefits and blessings of God than in a loving relationship with Him? Explain.
4. What is it that finally turns the prodigal's heart toward his father and back towards home? When you came to faith, did you come easily, or did you have to experience some hard things apart from God that motivated you to come home?
5. What actions and attitudes characterize the father's attitude towards his lost son (and towards all lost sheep!!!)? Come up with 6 words that for you describe the heart of God as revealed here. Take some time to thank Him for these truths about Him.
6. Many call this parable "The parable of the two brothers" since Jesus obviously meant for us to learn from both brothers. What do you think the older brother "should have done" if he wanted to have a heart like his father's? Do you ever sense "older brother" tendencies in your own heart when people around you mess up? Confess this and ask for God to give you His heart for the people it's hard for you to wait for and welcome.