

Lost & Found | A Father's Story (Luke 15.11-32)

Outline

Main Idea- It is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance

Introduction

Necessity of the Series

- God's Heart for Lost Things
- Our mission to make disciples

Table of Contents

- Forbearing an Offense (Romans 2.4)
- Kindness over Fear (v.11-17)
- A Prodigal Father (v.20-24)
- Always Pursuing (v.25-32)

Forbearing An Offense (Romans 2.4)

- Romans 2.4 : God's kindness to us in taking on our debt
- Understanding forbearance and patience and kindness

Kindness over Fear (v.11-19)

- Recap: The post-Christian reality and how the younger son exemplifies this
- The son appeals to his father's renewed kindness as a hired servant

A Prodigal Father (v.20-24)

- Defining prodigal- not wayward, "reckless spendthrift"
- The father is prodigal in both his wealth and his reputation
- God spends what he needs to draw those who are far from him back to himself

Always Pursuing (v.25-32)

- This parable has no control group. The father is not waiting and going after the one son, but both. He is showing lavish, excessive kindness to both sons.

Implications and Practices

- Romans 2. 1- 4
- Reflecting the kindness of God
 - Becoming unified (Galatians 5.22-23, Acts)
 - Becoming prodigal: time, finances and direction of our lives

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Discussion Questions

1. Introduction: We want to understand how God's heart for the lost motivates our mission to make disciples.
 - How have these parables helped you understand God's heart for this lost? If you haven't been keeping up with the series, what do you think God's heart for the lost looks like?
 - What does it mean to make disciples? How does understanding God's heart for the lost impact how you make disciples?
 - What stands out to you about this portion of the parable of the lost son?
2. The father shows kindness to both sons despite them both being far from him.
 - How was each son far from the father?
 - Do you more often expect God to reject you based on your poor choices or love you because of your good deeds? Why?
 - How do you think God might be showing kindness to others by using you to draw them to himself?
3. The father is willing to spend everything to draw his sons to himself.
 - How has God shown you kindness in drawing you to himself?
 - What are ways it is hard for you to expect God's kindness?
 - How might God be calling you to spend more of your time, finances, and the direction of your life to draw others to him?
4. In order to reflect the kindness of God to the world, we must be unified.
 - What are the benefits of unity that we see in this passage?
 - How can you and your community pursue unity and excessive generosity in order to reflect the kindness of God to the lost?
5. Read Galatians 5:19- 26. How can you address the following issues that have been causing division in the church, in a way that cultivates a unified place to invite those who don't know Jesus?
 - Covid-19?
 - 2020 Election/ US politics?
 - Social & Racial injustice?