

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

PASTOR MIKE'S SERMON NOTES

Introduction

- Disclaimer- Stay with me
- Explain the Necessity of the Series
 - KHC's Realignment and God's Heart for Lost Things
 - KHC Mission Statement
 - *We exist to bring glory to God by loving God supremely, loving people unconditionally, and making passionate disciples of Jesus in the South Bay and beyond.*
- The Challenge of Disciplemaking in a Post-Christian Culture
 - *"God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. How shall we comfort ourselves, the murderers of all murderers? What was holiest and mightiest of all that the world has yet owned has bled to death under our knives: who will wipe this blood off us? What water is there for us to clean ourselves? What festivals of atonement, what sacred games shall we have to invent? Is not the greatness of this deed too great for us? Must we ourselves not become gods simply to appear worthy of it?" - Friedrich Nietzsche*
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Main Idea- Jesus shares the story of a son who finds the love, presence, and forgiveness of his Father as being better than the unfulfilled promises of the world.

The Kingdom without the King (v.11-13)

- Luke 15.11-13
 - *11 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.*
- Same equation, but no question

- This is not a request for benevolence and help
 - For a first-century Jewish child disrespecting your parents was considered punishable by imprisonment.

The Power of Crisis (v.14-17)

- *14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.*
- *17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!*
- Crisis pushes against the good life myth
 - Unfulfilled Promises
 - Poverty
 - Famine
- No one pursues
- He comes to himself in the middle of the crisis

Repentance, Renewal and Rejoicing (v.18-24)

- *18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." ' 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.*
- Confessing sin
- Acceptance of consequences
- Trust for the Father's kindness

Implications and Practices

- ***Jesus shares the story of a son who finds the love, presence, and forgiveness of his Father as being better than the unfulfilled promises of the world.***
- The subtle danger of being post-Christian

Reflection Questions

- In what ways have you separated the blessings of God's kingdom from submission to the call of following the way of Jesus?
- How have seasons of crisis revealed your need for the Lord?
- How have you seen the pattern of repentance, renewal, and rejoicing in your life or in the lives of those who are close to you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture, learn how to better read the Bible for themselves, and faithfully apply it to their lives.

Read Luke 15.11-32

1. It has been said that we, in the West, are currently in a Post-Christian world. This means we want the benefits of Christianity without Christ; we want the kingdom without the King.
 - What are some examples of where you see this in our society?
 - What are some ways that Christians can fall into this temptation?
 - How have you (or are you currently dealing) with this?
2. How do we effectively share the gospel in a society where people believe that they can get "the good life" without Jesus?
3. It's in the moment of crisis that the son "comes to his senses" and decides to return to his father.
 - How have you seen God using this current crisis (or a previous one) to bring people to their senses and draw them to himself?
4. The son was hoping to become a servant in his Father's house because he couldn't believe that he could be a Son again.
 - Does that surprise you? Can you relate?
 - Have you ever had the same kind of moment where you thought you were beyond restoration?

- How has God shown you otherwise? In what tangible ways have you experienced the amazing and redemptive power of God's grace in your life?