

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Following Hard After Jesus
Title: The Parable of the Running Father
Text: Luke 13:11-32
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Date: February 24, 2019



WARM-UP

Share one personal "take away" from the teaching this past weekend.

DISCUSSION

Read Luke 15:1-32

- Referring to the first two verses of the chapter, why do you think the religious leaders were so bothered by Jesus response to "sinners"?
- How do you think they expected Jesus to respond to "sinners"?
- How would you characterize the way Jesus actually responded to "sinners" throughout the gospels?

In referring to the older brother in the parable, Pastor Matt said, "It's been suggested that in the eyes of some people, grace is amazing, while for others, grace is infuriating."

- Have you ever personally witnessed examples of grace in action that, if you're being totally honest, you would say caused you to feel annoyance, indignation or anger? If not, have you ever witnessed someone else respond like the older brother in the story; reacting negatively towards an act of grace?
- What causes this kind of negative reaction to extravagant grace?
- Is there such a thing as being "too gracious"? Why or why not?

Pastor Matt pointed out that both brothers in the parable showed contempt for their father, only in different ways.

- How would you characterize the way in which each son demonstrated relational brokenness with their father? What was wrong about how they viewed him, or acted towards him?
- Which brother do you most easily identify with when it comes to your relationship with God? What kind of relational brokenness are you most susceptible to embracing or practicing?
- What might you do to guard against this tendency?

At the end of the teaching we were invited to think of the person (or people) in our lives that God might be prompting us to respond to in the way the father acted towards his son; someone in need of being "found," of having grace showered on them, of being restored to an experience of

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Following Hard After Jesus
Title: The Parable of the Running Father
Text: Luke 13:11-32
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Date: February 24, 2019



DISCUSSION

wholeness, of being offered reconciliation.

- Have you been able to identify such a person?
- Share, to whatever level of detail you're comfortable, something about the person/situation that God has brought to your mind.
- Pray for one another regarding "next steps" related to the individuals/situations that have been identified ... for courage to walk in obedience. Pray that God would work through those steps of obedience taken by your Life Group members in order to bring His grace and wholeness to the individuals who have been identified.

(Life Group Leaders: We would love to have feedback in regards to any questions your group has from this, or any future Life Group discussion. While we may not be able to engage in every question, we are looking to create a forum by which to carry on the conversation and engage with feedback and questions as we are able. Please use the form at <https://www.southabbotsford.com/Messages> to interact in this way.)