

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"The Message We All Long to Hear"

Pastor David Stoker

THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, March 11, 2007

***Please note that we have a guest speaker this Sunday, therefore there is no sermon text available this week. Thank you for your understanding.**

Read Luke 15:11-32 The Parable of the Lost Son

11Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.[a]' 22"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. 25"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27"Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'28"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

Personal Reflection / Ice Breaker:

Which character in this parable do you relate to best?

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this story tell us about the father's character? About the younger son's character?
2. Why do you think that the younger son asked for his share of the father's estate ahead of time? Why do you think the father granted his request?

3. How can the father be so patient? Why doesn't he run after the son and try to convince him to return?
4. What are the four elements of the son's prepared speech? (15:18-19) In what ways do they model an appropriate apology?
5. Why does the father restore the son so quickly to full sonship?
6. What is the point of this parable in its context with the Parables of the Lost Sheep (15:3-7) and the Lost Coin (15:8-10)?
7. What do we learn about God in this parable? What difference should this knowledge make in our life and ministry?
8. What part of the sermon impacted you the most?

Extra:



Check Out The Movie: Amazing Grace (out in theaters now)

With perseverance, commitment and faith, accompanied by God's amazing grace, people of passionate convictions can indeed change the world. This theme permeates the film, Amazing Grace. Two hundred years ago in 1807 the first anti-slave trade bill was passed by England's Parliament, ending 400 years of slave trading. A brave force led by one persistent man, upheld by moral integrity, inspiring friends and a driving faith, paved the way for this world-changing, history-shaping milestone. The film celebrates the 200th anniversary of this accomplishment and a Christian hero who fought to end a horrible evil of his time.

Prayer Time

Announcement:

Volunteer Parking Attendants needed for Easter Sunday.

2 shifts available: 7-9:30am & 9:00-11:00am. Contact Ron Mathieu if interested at: 532-1111 or ron@fpchawaii.org.

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