

Reflection Questions: Luke 15:25-32

For the message, "A Temper Tantrum at God's Party" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on April 22, 2018

These discussion questions are designed primarily to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the sermon, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (the context), & 25-32

A summary of the sermon: This parable is about two sons, about two lost sons. And if we only understand the part about the younger son, then we'll miss why Jesus told this story in the first place to the religious leaders who we're grumbling that Jesus received and ate with all the wrong kinds of people. They are invited to see their response mirrored in the older son who refused to celebrate with the Father.

Key Quotes:

- Fredrick Nietzsche, "I would only believe in a God who could dance."
- Bono, "I'm holding out for Grace. I'm holding out that Jesus took my sins onto the Cross, because I know who I am, and I hope I don't have to depend on my own religiosity."
- Paul, the former Pharisee: "I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ" (Philippians 3).

Bottom Line:

- Grace is really only appreciated by those who know they are lost apart from Christ. It is the only thing that can enable your heart to dance with the Father.
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Let's get started...

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- What grabs your attention in this text? How are you challenged, convicted, encouraged, or surprised by this text?
- In light of this parable, how would you answer the question, "What kind of me is God calling me to be?"

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What kind of community is this text calling us to become for the sake of the world?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text help us understand God's mission in our city?
- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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