

Sunday Message: March 28, 2021

Meet Jesus | An Intervention, Luke 15:25-32

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## Reflection Questions

**1** God's grace is not exactly comfortable according to the world. What is it about grace that makes the world feel so uneasy? What is it about grace that may make you feel uneasy?

**2** We all tend toward self-righteousness by default. In what situations do you find yourself being critical and judgmental of others the most? ...in church? ...at school or work? ...on the street? Why do you think that is?

**3** Where might God be inviting you to join Him in giving extravagant grace to someone or some group in your life this week? What could it actually look like to show up to that party and participate with Jesus in celebrating that person or group?

# DIGGING DEEPER

*The primary translation used on Sunday mornings is the ESV. The corresponding notes in the ESV Study Bible are helpful when reflecting on the questions below.*

## Text Exploration Questions

Read Luke 15:11-32 again. Take notes and discuss using the questions below.

Focus attention on 15:25-32. This is a follow-up to last week's study on 15:11-24.

- **Review** - Briefly outline the content of the parable, noting the transitions in the storyline. Who are the main characters and who do they represent? Go back and read 15:1-3. Note who the parable is aimed at - the "grumblers." How might the story of the older brother be a pointed jab to those listening? Who is grumbling in the storyline 15:28-29?
- Before focusing on 15:25-32, reflect on the transition verse in 15:24. Who is throwing the celebration and what is being celebrated?
- Almost everyone loves a party, but not the older brother. Where was the older brother before he made his way to the house? What does this say about him? What does this tell us about the elder son? 15:29 provides reinforcement.
- What is the news that sets the older brother over the edge? How does the elder brother respond to the news (to the servant and the father) and what does this say about his issues? Take time to really process this by placing yourself in the older brother's shoes. Do you think his response makes sense? Is it justified in some ways? In what ways? Key point to keep in mind - In the parable of lost things, celebration is the result of sinners repenting (i.e. salvation). Why would anyone have an issue with sinners repenting and being in the presence of the Father?
- Look at 15:30, how does the older brother refer to his younger brother? This is super revealing. Why do we have difficulty accepting some as brothers and sisters within the household of God? What does this say about our propensity toward self-righteousness and pride? What does it say about our belief in repentance? What does it ultimately say about our belief in God's grace?
- Lastly, study 15:31-32. What is Jesus saying to the Pharisees about the love and reception of God the Father? What heart issue was Jesus trying to speak to? What encouragement was the Father offering to the older son - the Pharisees? Throughout the parable how is the Father portrayed? Is there ever confusion about his character in regard to his love for his children despite their issues - sinners/tax collectors or Pharisees/scribes?
- Note what is not included at the end of the parable - a response from the older brother. Jesus leaves the parable open-ended. Why? In this situation would you continue with your self-righteous anger toward the grace of God and your "underserving" little brother or would you repent and once again bask in the grace and greatness of a God who saves?