Looking With Love

Greg Kline · Luke 15:1–32

INTRODUCTION

- Sometimes I think we forget that verse 1 and 2 are the reason Jesus is even telling or sharing that wonderful story.
- This man receives sinners and eats with them. It's not just that he's around them, it's that he is accepting of them, he is mingling with them, he's being one with them.
- Looking with grace to recognize that I have faults and you have faults. And so we will deal kindly with one another the way we want God so desperately to deal kindly with us.

1 The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin

Luke 15:3–7; Luke 15:8–10

- What is the reaction to the lost sheep? Rejoicing.
- To find someone who's lost, I have to go to them. And you know what's uncomfortable? Going to somebody who doesn't agree with me.
- Have I looked with love to do something about my now lost brother or my lost sister?
- There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

2 The Prodigal Son Squandered It in Reckless Living

Luke 15:11–19

- If we're honest, we recognize I have been that son before.
- That's what it's like when we give up our relationship with God. We're squandering something of immense, irreplaceable value.
- He's looking for fulfillment, joy, happiness. And what does he find? Despair. Emptiness. And loneliness.

3 The Father Is Patient and Gracious

Luke 15:20–24; 1 John 4:19

- But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
- It's very easy to love when somebody else has first loved us, but God teaches us through his Apostle John in 1 John chapter 4, we know love because why? God first loved us.
- We need to be looking for a chance to show grace.
- Can you imagine for a moment, on the day of judgment, if God forgave the way I sometimes forgive? That would be terrifying.

4 Angry Like the Older Son

Luke 15:25–32

- But he was angry and refused to go in.
- He's the 99 sheep who didn't leave. And who is the father celebrating? The son who wasted and squandered away the family's inheritance.
- This older son was not perfect, no matter what he claimed.

5 We Should Look With Love

James 5:20

- Jesus says, God cares about those who are lost. We should all care about the lost. We should look with love.
- One, I go find somebody I can show love to. If somebody has lost, I make an effort.
- One who recovers a sinner from his erring ways covers a multitude of sins.
- It's more likely we are the prodigal son's brother at this moment in time than the prodigal son.

6 If God Judged the Way I Judge

Romans 10:21; Matthew 6; Matthew 18

- The standard with which we judge others is the standard we will be judged by.
- All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.
- If I am humbled like the prodigal son, then I can love like the Father. Because I know what it's like to be loved by the Father.
- I need to be loving and gracious the way I desperately need, want, and crave God to be gracious and loving to me.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If you are a Christian, you're too much like the older son, recognize we can pray with you. We can pray for you. We're all on the same team.**

MY NOTES