

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

MISSION REFOCUS

The Heart of the Father, Part I – Luke 15

Pastor John Mahaffey

Sunday September 18, 2016

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. In the beginning of the passage found in Luke 15, we find that the story is being told to the Pharisees for their benefit and as a rebuke for their conduct. They exist as a body to preserve and honour the name and reputation of God and yet they are displeasing Him with their lives. How have they gotten it so wrong? What do they need to adjust in their thinking to be on the right path?
2. What is there in our evangelical Christian culture that might be similar to the Scribes and the Pharisees?
3. Describe the shepherd, the coin owner and the father and their value of what was lost to them. What picture of the Heavenly Father do you get in these three stories?
4. Talk about the father waiting / watching / running / accepting / kissing / robing the wayward son. Recall God's waiting / watching / running / accepting / kissing / robing you. Is this your salvation story?
5. In the story of the Prodigal Son, we learn that the father is willing to humiliate himself in order to be reconciled to the son who wronged him.
 1. How does God demonstrate this to us daily? How has He done this ultimately?
 2. What does this say about how we should go about treating those who wrong us?
 3. Read and discuss how Romans 5:8 relates to this humiliation and God's reputation.
6. What does the father's interruption of the son's speech tell us about the fullness of God's forgiveness? How does this story reflect the gospel message?

Mission Refocus: What does Jesus' Portrait of the Father Say About Our Mission?

1. "The Father will not allow us to pay down our debt to Him". Discuss how to share this blessing with our friend or neighbour who dwells on a message of works rather than the gift of grace.
2. What does this story tell us about our Heavenly Father? How does Jesus describe his Father? What are the various phrases John used to describe the Father? How does this relate to our Mission?
3. What is the reputation the Father wants and how does this relate to our mission? "The man welcomes sinners and eats with them." How does a ministry of simply welcoming people to worship and befriending them contribute in some way to our mission?