

This Is Your Mission Should You Choose To Accept It (part 4)

Luke 15:11-31

Sermon Takehome

February 21, 2010

Pastor Randy Richter

Read Luke 15 and discuss.

1. What do you find interesting about this passage?
2. Why was what the son did so shocking?
3. What would be a parallel in our culture?
4. What range of emotions do you think the father felt?
5. In one word, describe what he showed his son when his son returned home. Why did you choose this word?
6. Share a time when someone showed whatever word you have chosen to you.
7. What lesson was Jesus desperately trying to teach?
8. Find some Bible verses that use the word grace. Read a few aloud.
9. What do you think the word grace means?
10. If what God expresses towards you is grace, what does this say about your relationship with him?
11. Share about a time when a person has shown you grace.
12. Gordon MacDonald says that Christianity is the only place you can find grace. What do you think of this statement?
13. What is the difference between showing someone grace and tolerating them?

Read Romans 7:14-20 and talk about Paul's struggle.

14. What are some of the things we struggle with when we do what we hate?

15. Would hopelessness be a fair word to describe what Paul is feeling?

Read verses 24-25. What gave him hope?

16. Why don't people expect grace from God?

17. Why don't they expect it from the church?

Pastor Randy said two things:

- One, the primary way people experience God's grace is through us.
- Two, acceptance puts the skin on grace.

18. What does it mean to accept someone?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

19. What do we learn about the church of Corinth in this passage?

20. What would it take for us to become a church with this makeup?

21. Are you ready for that?

22. What are the risks that come with accepting someone?

23. How do we deal with the fact they may never change? How do you help someone change?

24. How do you think Hillside does as far as being an "accepting" church? What still needs to change?

25. How do you think you do as far as being an "accepting" person? What still needs to change?