

20/20

DISCOVERING GOD'S VISION FOR MY LIFE

The Power of Extravagant Grace

Pastor Doug Heisel – February 24, 2019

Luke 15:1-2 – Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Luke 15:12-24 – Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.” So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

The son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” So they began to celebrate.

1. Extravagant grace EXCHANGES my worst for God’s best.

...Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him...

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them...

2. Extravagant grace declares my true IDENTITY and WORTH.

Get a ring for his finger...

Galatians 4:7 – Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are His child, God has made you His heir.

3. Extravagant grace affirms God's divine CALLING on my life.

...and sandals for his feet...

2 Corinthians 5:19b-20 – He has committed His message of reconciliation to us. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

Isaiah 52:7 – How delightful it is to see approaching over the mountains the feet of a messenger who announces peace, a messenger who brings good news, who announces deliverance, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

4. Extravagant grace celebrates my PROGRESS, in spite of my imperfections.

And kill the calf we have been fattening in the pen. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found. So the party began.

Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: Describe who you grew up with and where. What is one thing you especially enjoyed about it? What is one thing you would have changed, if you could?

DIGGING IN: Read Luke 15 (with focus on the story of the lost son and gracious father).

1. Jesus tells these three stories to challenge the incorrect mental images that the Pharisees had of God. What were some of your earliest thoughts and pictures of God? How are they similar or different today?
2. The father, in Jesus' story, gave the son four gifts – that corresponded with the four points of this Sunday's message. Discuss the points, along with the corresponding verses. Which has impacted you the most, in the past, or is encouraging or challenging you today, with something new?
3. Our 20/20 series also involves how clear we are as a local church, about three core values: Extravagant Grace being the first. Pray for our church, and how we can continue to extend the message of grace to more and more people – especially leading up to this Easter.

BRINGING IT HOME: In the conclusion of the story of the prodigal son, includes highlights the incorrect attitude of the other son. It's a reminder that people who truly understand how powerful receiving grace is, also learn to understand how powerful it is to also give it to others. Because the other brother held resentment, he could not enjoy the celebration. Where can you offer grace to someone in your life?