

w/b 6th January THEME: COME AS YOU ARE - The Return of the Prodigal Son

PASSAGE: Luke 15:11-32.

LAUNCH

Homecoming is a good theme for a story. Can you think of a famous example from history, film or literature of someone or a group of people returning home.

What emotions do you think they were feeling at the time?

DISCOVERY

Think about the characters in this parable...which character do you most relate to and why?

What do you think about the Father giving his son his inheritance when he knew that he would misuse it?

How does is this similar to God's relationship with us?

THE YOUNGER SON

What was the primary motivation for the son going home?

Do you think that the son was motivated to go home because his "Father was loving and gracious" or because he was in crisis?

What do you find encouraging about this?

Do you find it encouraging that "what bring us back to God" is not necessarily the primary motive for seeking him out?

THE FATHER

What do you think of the Father running out to meet his son?

How often do we make it a requirement of others... to come all the way back to us instead of us going out to meet their need.

THE OLDER SON

How does the older son feel about the return of his younger brother?

In his book on the prodigal son Henri Nouwen suggests that in his heart the older son has also left home. To what extent is this case? How can we as Christians find ourselves 'leaving home' even whilst going to church on a regular basis?

Ken talked about the older son having a slave attitude rather than a son attitude.
What does this mean?

To what extent can this translate into church life & how do we avoid it?

Do you think the father loves the younger son more? Why or why not?

Do you think the older brother is justified in his behaviour? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

Pray for more and more prodigals to join us at Jubilee

Pray for us to have a lovely welcoming attitude when they do

(IVP, Henri Nouwen study guide & Redmond church online study all sourced for this study)