

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Have you ever known someone who's out of touch with reality?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. According to Luke 15:1-2, what were the Pharisees complaining about?
3. Please read Luke 15:11-17.
4. According to verse 15, what was the spiritual and emotional condition of the prodigal?
 - a. What does the word "hire" mean?
 - b. Was this like working at Starbucks?
 - c. Have you ever been stuck to the wrong thing or person? Talk about it.
5. Max Lucado described the prodigal's emotional condition like this, "The Prodigal Son's first few days of destitution were likely steamy with resentment. He was mad at everyone. Everyone was to blame. His friends shouldn't have bailed out on him. And his brother should come and bail him out. His boss should feed him better and his dad never should have let him go in the first place. He named a pig after each one of them."
6. You have a Jewish young man working with pigs. Is that a big deal?
 - a. Please read Leviticus 11:1-11 and Deuteronomy 14:8. Why doesn't God want Hebrews to eat or touch pigs?
 - b. What's the spirit behind this commandment?
7. What are your thoughts about this quote from Don Colbert, "Saying 'no' to eating pork and other practices of the pagans helped the Israelites to break free from idolatry."
8. How do these passages compare with Ephesians 5:1-4?
- 9.
10. It's at this point in the story that most Jews would say, "The prodigal crossed the line." This is when the story should end. It's too late. He is getting what He deserves. But, we see something...God hasn't given up on him. What does this say about God's grace and love?

11. What does it mean to be "out of touch with reality?" Have you ever seen someone out of touch with reality?
 - a. Have you been out of touch with reality?
 - b. How was this prodigal out of touch with reality?

12. What does verse 17, "When he finally came to his senses" mean to you?
 - a. How does it compare to a "Tipping Point?"
 - b. Have you experienced a moment like this? Talk about it.

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- God doesn't want us to go near anything that can make us unholy.
- If you call yourself Christian, then the way you live should look different.
- That one one thing you did wrong does not define your future.
- Maybe you feel SPIRITUALLY UNCLEAN before God but Jesus takes all of the dirt and sin away.