Rescuing Truth from Familiarity

Luke 15:11–24

Encouragement to Worship

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Introduction

- The Gospel within the Gospel – Parable of the Two Sons
- Purpose: Rescue truth from familiarity
- Question: How does this parable invite us into worship?

The Challenge

- Pharisees: 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'
- Jesus’ reply: More radical than they imagined
- Worship begins with recognizing Jesus’ scandalous grace

Two Kinds of Lostness

- Lost in the far country (younger son)
- Lost in the house (older son)
- Both need grace
- Worship responds to God's grace whether near or far

The Father's Love

- Reprocesses anger into grace
- Extends costly demonstrations of unexpected love
- Runs, embraces, kisses the son
- Worship flows from experiencing such love

The Turning Point

- Repentance = accepting to be found
- Not self-salvation, but surrender
- Worship is acknowledging: 'I was lost, but He found me'

The Celebration

- Father: 'This my son was dead and is alive; lost and is found.'
- Banquet = reconciliation, not just return
- Worship = joining heaven’s celebration of grace

The Older Son's Struggle

- Refuses to join the celebration
- Worship hindered by pride, entitlement, comparison
- Question: Are we standing outside while the Father celebrates?

Worship Lessons

- 1. Worship starts with receiving grace
- 2. Worship celebrates reconciliation, not performance
- 3. Worship breaks pride and self-righteousness
- 4. Worship is joining the Father’s joy

Application

- Where am I in the story?
- How do I respond to God’s costly love?
- Will I worship by entering the celebration?

Closing Call to Worship

- Scripture: 'We love because He first loved us' (1 John 4:19)
- Invitation: Come, celebrate the grace of the Father