

SUMMER STORIES

The Parables of Jesus



Summer Stories: The Parables of Jesus | The Prodigal Son

Jesus wanted people to experience God in their everyday world and He accomplished this by teaching in parables. A parable is theology through story. It's a spiritual truth about God and His kingdom expressed through the lens of normal, everyday things like parties, pearls, and planting seeds. The Kingdom of God isn't confined to a church building, it's active where we live, work, and play. It is who we are as Jesus' people.

This Father's Day we talked about the Parable of the Prodigal Son. We normally look at this parable through the lens of the younger son, the one who left; or the older son, the one who stayed and judged his younger brother. We instead looked at this through the lens of the Father to better understand the heart of our Father in heaven.

Discussion Questions:

1. Retell the parable of the Prodigal Son in your own words, then read Luke 15:11-32.
2. How does this parable encourage or inspire you?
3. A.W. Tozer wrote, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Meaning; it's not what we *say* about God that is important, it's what we *believe* about Him that impacts how we engage with Him.

What comes into your mind when you think about God?

4. How does it line up with what the Bible says about the Father? How does it contrast with what the Bible says about the Father? How does your relationship with your father impact what you think about God?
5. Read Romans 8:14,15. What does it mean to be freed from the slavery of shame and fear?
6. How does his perfect love cast out fear? How have you seen that at work in your life?