

Living Waters focus

Monthly Newsletter of Living Waters Church | June 2018

Mark Your Calendar

June 1st
Kids Club

June 2nd
Ladies Prayer Meeting

June 3rd
New Corinthians Series
Begins

Summer Outreach
Planning Meeting after
worship service

June 12th
Leadership Team
Meeting 7:00pm

June 17th
Father's Day

June 23rd
Shop Rite Charity
Bagging Event

How Much Does God Love Us?

By Pastor Pete Amerman

One of the most familiar of Jesus' parables is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. I believe that its appeal is that it clearly demonstrates God our Heavenly Father's lavish (read, "prodigal") love when we come to God in sincerity and weakness, confessing our sin, acknowledging that we can't make it on our own.

There are two responses that show the contrast in the heart of the son:

- 1) The response of rebellion- The heart of rebellion is found vs. 12- "Father, GIVE ME... ("Father, give me my share of the estate."). Why is this the heart of rebellion? Because...
 - a) The father was not dead yet. (Yet, in making this request for his inheritance, he was treating his father as if he was dead to him.)
 - b) The inheritance was his already. (his desire was not just about possessions- the father's possessions were his already; but his desire was about possessions and control- "I want what I want when I want it; I want to have all the blessings, but none of the responsibilities.")
 - c) It was this desire that took him to a far country. (Our rebellious hearts are what take us to a "far country", where we are estranged from God, and from His family.)

This was a completely FOOLISH request; but, the father's response appears foolish also- Vs. 12- "He divided his wealth between them." It is an amazing truth to consider, that the father's love and provision for us continues, even when our hearts are in rebellion attitude toward Him!

Where did the son's rebellious heart lead him? Vs. 13-14- Everything appeared to go as planned for the son... *until the money ran out!* Then, it says- vs. 17- "When he came to his SENSES..." I like what it says in the King James version- "He came to HIMSELF"

- 2) The response of faith- Notice the change in the son's attitude, his heart- Vs. 18-19- "Father, MAKE ME..." ("I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father...make me like one of your hired men.") That means that my heart pen for change, my heart is open to a renewed relationship, my heart is open to God's Holy Spirit to work on me from the inside out.

(article cont.)

So, what are the steps that leads the son (and us) back home when our hearts are in rebellion to God?

- 1) *We must recognize our true condition-* Vs. 17- “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death.’” In other words, we need to acknowledge that our own rebellious hearts led to complete disaster for us and others.
- 2) *We must remember our father-* Vs. 18- “I will set out and go back to my father...” It is not enough to recognize the effects of our own poor choices; we must also remember that we have a father who loves us, who awaits our return, who will run to meet us when we finally come home.
- 3) *We must honestly confess our sin-* Vs. 18- “...(I will) say to him: ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.’”
- 4) *We must actually return to our father-* Vs. 20- “he got up and went to his father.”

What was the father’s response to his son? The father’s lavish, unrestrained (“prodigal”) love! Vs. 20- “His father saw him--was filled with compassion--ran to him--threw his arms around him--kissed him.”

Our Heavenly Father RUNS to meet us when we are ready to come home to Him. The slightest move in God’s direction is met with a flood of response from Him!

Life Group News

Sunday morning (9:15am) “LIFE-Group”- “MYFAITH”

One of the most memorable speeches in coaching in the NFL was the Vince Lombardi’s “Gentlemen, THIS IS A FOOTBALL” speech. In the 1960 season’s championship game, the Packers squandered a lead late in the 4th quarter through careless mistakes and lost the game. Surprisingly, Coach Lombardi began the next season’s training camp with the statement: “Gentlemen,” he said, “this is a football.” He taught them again how to “master the basics”- how to block, tackle, run, pass, catch and most importantly, hold on to the football. His team would become the best in the league at the tasks everyone else took for granted. Six months later, the Green Bay Packers won the NFL Championship.

The “MYFAITH” study is a study to help us to “master the basics” of the Christian faith- 25 lessons on the topics of what Christians believe, why Christians believe it and why it matters.

Every lesson also ends with a section entitled, “So what? Because the principles of this chapter are true, what difference will this make in my life this week?” This process encourages participants to think through the personal application of each lesson as well as the reasons we believe it. It also encourages participants to put God’s word in their hearts as well as their minds.

The Bible tells us, “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” (1 Peter 3:15). This “MYFAITH” study will not only will help to prepare us to give an answer for the hope we have, but also to revere Christ as Lord in our hearts!

“Gentlemen (...and, ladies), THIS IS A BIBLE!”



*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”
– John 3:16*

Connect With Us!

There are multiple ways to connect with Living Waters Church:

Life Groups: Meet throughout Morris County (See our web site for times and locations)

Website: www.lwcnj.org –

Sermon podcast are also on web site



Flock Note: This is our new church communication system. To signup - text the keyword “LWC649” to text #84576 then follow the instructions to complete the process. You can also download the app on your phone.

Email: lwchurch649@gmail.com



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To give - go to our web site and click the “GIVE” tab

