

07.20.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “What does a Father’s reckless love mean for me?”

Scripture Reading: [Luke 15:11-24](#) ; [1 John 4:7-21](#) ; [John 13:31-34](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

Friends, what are we to do with the prodigal love of the Father in Jesus’ story for this week?

What are we to make of the recklessly extravagant, extremely generous, over-the-top lavish, wasteful, and liberal love of the Father for his younger son even after everything his younger son said and did?

I don’t know about you, but this prodigal love of the Father in Jesus’ story (which we are reflecting on together this week) messes with me. It messes with my sense of justice. It messes with my sense of how things should work. It messes with how things are redeemed and made right again. It messes with my understanding of how things are supposed to be. Is this story messing around with your heart and mind too?

Cause really, it can’t be true, can it? The Father’s love for his wayward, lost, defiant, do it my own way, thanks for the money wish you were dead dad, son can’t really be that extravagant and generous and wasteful and liberal, can it? I mean, Jesus, come on, who loves this way anyway?

Jesus says, “God, your Father in heaven does.”

Is not the Father in this story a story about our God and Father in Heaven? Isn’t Jesus telling his disciples, the Pharisees, the sinners, whoever else is gathered around while he tells this story, and us today a story to help them/us to more completely understand the love that our Father in heaven has for each one of us? Are not these three stories of Jesus in Luke 15 told to help us realize that our God loves those who are lost deeply, extravagantly, recklessly, and liberally? Did Jesus not tell us these stories to help us realize that our God loves you and me and everyone else the same way?

If this is how God’s love truly is, what does this mean for us who follow him? And what does this mean for how we, as followers of Jesus are to love those around us?

Jesus, before he was crucified, was quite clear with his disciples, those who follow him as Lord and Savior, that they are to love one another. Listen to what Jesus says in John 13:

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

So, what does this mean then for how we interact with our family members? Our friends? Our co-workers? Our neighbors? The lost ones and the found ones that you and I interact with every day?

Friends, what are we to do with the prodigal love of the Father in Jesus’ story for this week?

Prayer:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank you for your recklessly extravagant, extremely generous, over-the-top lavish, wasteful, and liberal love for every one of us. Let this unconditional love shape and form how we love those around us. AMEN.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Reflect for a moment on who it is that you find it most difficult to love. Why do you think this is? Place them in our story for this week in Luke 15:11-24. Place yourself in our story for this week. How does the Father's love in our story impact how you are called to love those who are most difficult to love?

Songs for today:

[Reckless Love](#)

[Oh, The Deep Love of Jesus](#)

[Go So Loved](#)

[God is Love](#)

[How He Loves](#)