

Sermon Discussion

Luke 15:25-32 • Peter LaRuffa • 11/20/22

Conversation starters: Name something you are genuinely thankful for or something you know you should be thankful for, but struggle to give thanks.

Outline (refer to online sermon outline for supporting verses)

1. If you can't celebrate God's saving grace in others, it's because you never received it yourself.
 - a. You'll never celebrate new life because you'll remain dead inside.
 - b. You'll be deluded into thinking you're better than you are, so you'll never think you need God's grace.
 - c. You'll be angry that God hasn't given you what you want for your selfish desires.
 - d. You'll view others according to what they've done instead of who they are.
 - e. You'll be too bitter, angry, and proud to listen to God's call to "come home."
 - f. You'll remain an enemy of God instead of becoming His child.

2. The invitation to come home and celebrate is still open to all today!

Sermon Discussion:

1. Pastor Peter said it's important to "find yourself in the story." Which character do you resonate with the most? Was there ever a time when you resonated more with another character?
2. When was the last time you were wrong?
3. Recall the ending Pastor Peter suggested (older brother kills the father), and explain the thinking behind it.
4. Read Acts 2:22-23, Isaiah 53, and 2 Corinthians 5:21. Explain the "divine irony" that when the Jews did their worst, they actually accomplished God's best.
5. What group of people do you (at least kind of) want God to judge, now, so you can see it? Will it unsettle you if Christ accepts them, even celebrates them? How should you regard both the prodigal son, and self-righteous son?