



Part 3: The Religious

Sometimes we assume that religion is about cleaning up our lives and doing all the right things. But what Jesus taught is that there's much more to it than that, and if we don't realize it, we're going to miss the entire message!

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever felt frustrated when someone received grace, forgiveness, or an opportunity that you didn't think they deserved? What made that difficult?
2. Which brother do you find easier to relate to, the younger brother who openly rebels or the older brother who quietly keeps score? Why?
3. Read Luke 15:25-32. Share some of your observations and questions as you discuss the second part of this parable. What stands out to you about the older brother's response when he hears the celebration is for his younger brother?
4. The father goes out to meet both sons. What does that reveal about God's heart toward people who are far from Him and people who think they're already close?
5. The older brother says, "I have served you" and complains about what he has not received. What does that reveal about how he views his relationship with his father? The older brother's real problem was pride rather than obedience. How can pride hide behind good behaviour, morality, or religious activity?
6. Are there places in your life where you find yourself keeping score, with God or with other people? What would it look like to let go of that mindset and receive grace instead? Jesus is the true Older Brother who came looking for the lost.

Moving Forward

Who is one of your "four" that God may be inviting you to pray for, show up for, or invite this week? What is one thing from this series that you can apply this week?