

YOUTH CONFERENCE 2024 - FRIDAY PM | Mark Clark

Overview:

Speaker (Mark Clark) journeyed with us through Luke 15 and exposed us to the fact that every one of us is lost. In this story of Luke 15 we see two sons which Mark claims represent two ways you can be lost. The younger son represents the skeptic or the reckless one and the older son represents the religious one – the one who grew up in church & has the knowledge but still missed it. And the question posed is: Are you going to listen to God and respond OR are you going to harden your heart to God? This message will help students to see that God wants to use and redeem anyone, no matter if you are lost as the younger son or the older son in the story.

Key Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Ice-breaker Question: What in your life currently brings you joy and satisfaction? Why?

Dig Deeper:

Behind every “lost” person is typically a search for meaning and purpose and value in their life. People are hungry for purpose. They want to be seen as being a valuable part of society. In this story that we are looking at, ask yourself, “Which son am I?”

READ Luke 15:11-32

- *What do you think motivated the younger son to leave home?*

Mark shared that the younger son today represents the skeptic, the reckless one, the one who doesn’t believe in God, the one who thinks the world revolves around him.

The younger son’s attempt to do life his way came to a crashing halt and it was in that moment that the younger son realized his sinfulness and his need for forgiveness and humility. (see Luke 15:17-19)

- *How hard do you think it must have been for the younger son to return home and admit his sinfulness?*
- *How do you see the love and character of God play out in how the father responds?*

“Don’t offer God your strength, He has all of that, rather offer Him your weakness, He has none of that” – Charles Spurgeon

Mark shared that the older son today represents the religious person, the one who grew up in church and knows his Bible, but still misses it. The one who has the head knowledge, but he hasn’t let it penetrate his heart.

THE OLDER SON IS LOOKING SIDEWAYS, NOT UPWARDS

- *Do you ever struggle to look upwards? If so, what keeps you from doing so?*

No matter if you find yourself living life like the younger son or the older son, the first step towards a right relationship with God is recognizing you are sinful to the core and humble yourself before God.

God will be waiting to celebrate with you, just like the father did with his son when he came back to the father. God wants to take your weakness and use it for His glory. He wants to redeem your mistakes and be reunited with you!

EVEN IN THE MIDST OF OUR FAILURES, GOD SHOWS UP

Group Discussion:

1. When Mark helped us see that “anyone” can be used by God, how does that truth hit your heart? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. Respond to this statement: “If you’re not a missionary, you’re an imposter? Does your heart break for lost people? Why or why not?”
3. What’s a weakness in your life that you believe holds you back from God OR from being used by God? How did this message help reframe how you relate to God in your weakness?
4. What son do you identify with the most? What step do you need to take to humbly turn toward the Father?