



Reach with Grace

Luke 15:25-32

A. The Older Son/Brother...

1. ...fulfilled older son duties.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field.”

Luke 15:25a (NIV)

2. ...was unaware of the father’s business.

“When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.” Luke 15:25b-26 (NIV)

3. ...learned that his brother was home.

“‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’” Luke 15:27 (NIV)

B. Grace in the Face of Religion

1. The Dangers of Religious Thinking

- a. Religious thinking can cause bitterness.

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in.”

Luke 15:28a (NIV)

- b. Religious thinking can cause self-righteousness.

“So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you

never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.’” Luke 15:28b-29 (NIV)

- c. Religious thinking can cause a lack of compassion.

“But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!” Luke 15:30 (NIV)

2. The father’s grace overcomes religiosity.

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours’”

3. The father invites everyone to party.

“But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” Luke 15:32 (NIV)

C. Application Questions

1. Are we celebrating the lost being found?

“‘And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’” Luke 15:9-10 (NIV)

2. Does our compassion match our religion?

Religion: the belief in and worship of a superhuman power or powers, especially a God or gods. A pursuit or interest to which someone ascribes supreme importance.
(Dictionary.com)

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.’” Matthew 9:36-38 (NIV)

3. Are we a part of the search and rescue?

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?” Luke 15:8 (NIV)

Bottom Line:

Celebrate a comeback, don’t turn it into a setback.

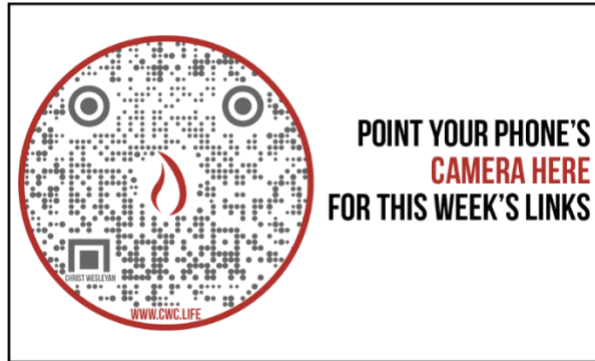
To begin a relationship with Jesus...

Text: “Jesus” to 570-273-0088

Notetakers are history makers.

Next Sunday: REACH
Week 4: REACH the One
Milton Campus: Pastor Branden Mestach
Sunbury Campus: Pastor Billy Robel

Notetakers are History Makers



Giving & Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 64.2% of goal

Giving year to date: 82.8% of goal

Attendance Last Weekend: 1,821

Salvations to date: 179 | Baptisms to date: 51

Upcoming Happenings:

October 20: Flourish Event for women!

October 25: Trunk or Treat – 6:30p

**October 27: Celebration Sunday (Baptisms and Baby
Dedications)**

November 8-10: Youth Fall Retreat

**October 5, 12, 19, 26 and November 2: Prayer
(Milton Auditorium) 6p-7p**