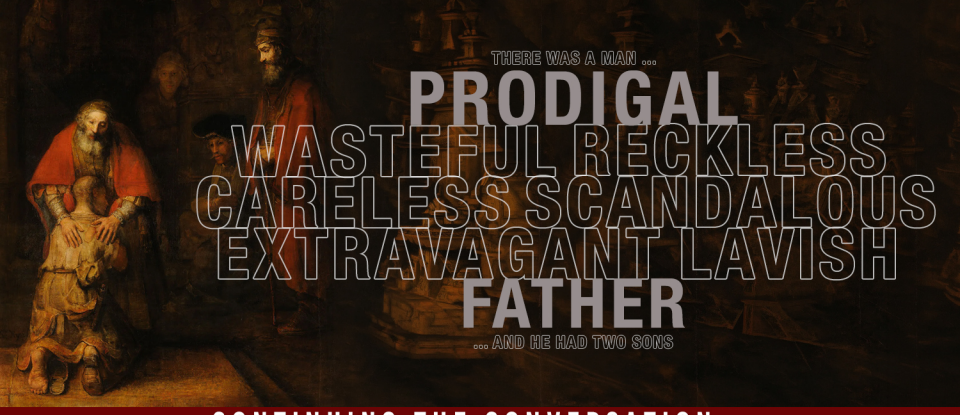


CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ...

WEEK 4: THE REAL OLDER BROTHER

Unlike the stories of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin, where the owner searches for something they lost - in the Prodigal Son story - no one seeks the younger son.
A true "older brother" should have gone searching for his brother and paid the cost to redeem and restore him to the family.
Jesus is the true older brother who came from heaven to earth, paying the infinite cost of his life to rescue all humanity and bring us home.

THINK ABOUT THESE ...

1. **Read Luke 15:11-32** - Where do you see the 'initiating love of God' in the story? Do you agree or disagree that without God taking the step towards us - we cannot come home?

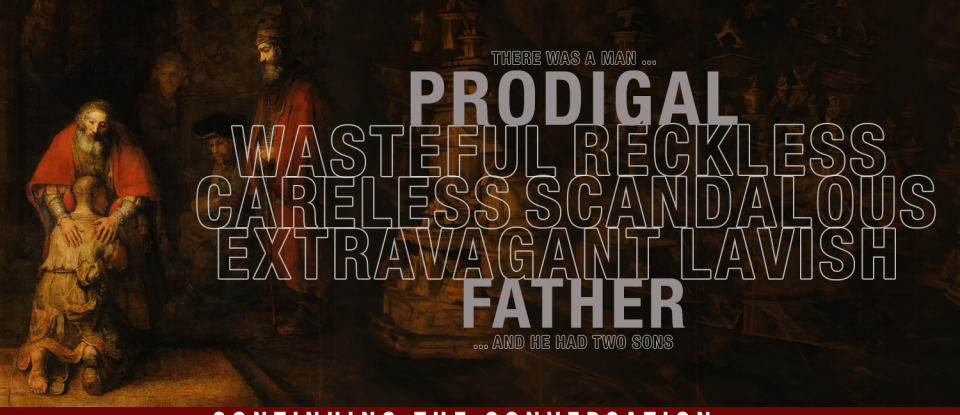
2. What do you think -*'it's not the repentance that causes the father's love, but rather the reverse'* - means?

3. Remorse and regret are just a part of a self-salvation project - agree or disagree? What is the difference between repentance and regret? **Check out 2 Corinthians 7:10**

4. 'The elder brother's problem is his self-righteousness, the way he uses his good performance to put God and others in his debt to control them and get them to do what he wants.'
Do you see where your relationship with God leans into that?

5. When the father says to the elder brother, *'everything I have is yours,'* how is this the literal truth about the elder son and Jesus?
Read Philippians 2:5-11

6. Why is *free* forgiveness *costly*?



CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ...

THINKING REVOLUTIONARY ...

My heart be changed from a dynamic of fear and anger
to that of love, joy, and gratitude!

Trace the relationship between:
seeing Jesus beauty *(doctrine)* >> love for Jesus *(delight)*
>> obedience *(duty)*

Our pleasure and our duty, though opposite before,
since we have seen his beauty are joined to part no more.

John Newton

READ AND THINK ABOUT THESE WORDS (MEMORIZE THEM IF YOU CAN!):
"For the grace of God has appeared
that offers salvation to all people.
It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness..."

Titus 2 verses 11, 12