

“Tough Crowd”

Luke 15: 1-3; 11b-32

- Re-read the Scriptures.
- When have you had someone else get all the attention or glory and you didn't get any?
- When have you been so “down” you rather have been a servant for your loved one than where you were?
- If you're willing to share with the group... How was your relationship with your father?
 - Did you ever think that he didn't know what he was talking about?
 - When did you realize you were wrong? Did you?
 - How is your relationship with your father now?
 - How is your relationship with your heavenly Father?
- JD talked about how both bothers live within us. That at times we are the one that strays and at others we are the one that feels like they have sacrificed and slaved and remained faithful, yet we also feel like we are better than others.
 - Who do you identify with most?
 - The younger brother?
 - The older brother?
 - When do you identify with the “other” brother?
- Do you recognize that you already have so many blessings or are you like the older brother? Not being able to see all that God has done for you.
- JD asked us to think about how it would be if we were asked to write the endings of great movies, *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Casablanca*, or *Citizen Kane*. Could we write a better ending?
 - How would you write the end of the parable?
 - How WILL you write the end of the parable in your life?
- We heard how the older brother must swallow his pride and resentment toward the younger brother, and how the younger brother would have to be humble and ask forgiveness from his big brother.
 - Can you do either of these things well?
 - How can you help others develop the ability to ask forgiveness or forgive?
- We so often think about how we might run the world if we were God. How we would mete out Justice and Wrath.
 - Do you ever spend time thinking about how God feels?

- Do you think about how much God cries over us and our decisions?
 - Do you think about how God's heart breaks?
 - Do you think about how God rejoices when we repent?
- How will you live differently because of this sermon?