

Session 5

The Prodigal God

Redefining Repentance

Prayer

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(2 minute)

Discussion Questions:

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word, “repentance”? (What is the dictionary definition?)
2. The underlying Greek word for “repentance” is “metanoia” – meaning “a change of mind.” How is this explanation different from the way we typically understand repentance?
3. In Luke 15, which comes first, the “repentance” of the son or the forgiveness given by the Father? On page 74, Keller states, “It’s not the repentance that causes the Father’s love, but rather the reverse?” Discuss.
4. Did Jesus come to change God’s heart and mind about us, or to change our heart and mind about God? Can anyone change God’s heart? Discuss.
5. On page 83, Keller states, “Mercy and forgiveness must be free and unmerited to the wrongdoer. If the wrongdoer has to do something to merit it, then it isn’t mercy, but forgiveness *always* comes at a cost to the one granting the forgiveness.”
In Luke 15, what did it cost the father to bring the younger son home?

What do think motivated and motivates God to pay the cost to bring us home?

6. Which of the two, the fear of punishment or the love of the Father, changes people's hearts?

7. What fear(s) are you living with? What "change of mind" is God working out in you?

Reflect:

My summary of the main point of this Session and how it impacted me personally;

Taking it with you:

Read Chapters 6 and 7 in preparation for next week's meeting.

Take notes or make comments below: