

We are doing a series called “Restoring Your Life”

Last week we started looking at the story of the prodigal son: Luke 15

- Providing the story arc of the series on “Restoring your life”.
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The story of the prodigal son is one of my favorite stories in the Bible

- Because out of the mouth of Jesus,
 - We hear about how the Heavenly Father will respond
 - To a sinner who comes to Him.
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IT IS A STORY OF RESTORATION

- In verses 11-13 the son is “sick-of-home” *he leaves home*
 - In verses 14-16 the son is “sick” *he remembers home*
 - In verses 17-19 the son is “home-sick” *he leaves for home*
 - In verses 20-24 the son is “home” *he is restored at home*
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Last week we looked at “REMEMBERING”:

- Remembering gives us hope
 - The son remembered Who the Father is
 - The son remembered what he had before he left home
 - The son remembered and recognized his current condition
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This recognition leads to revelation

- Revelation that the son had sinned against heaven and others
 - Revelation that the son didn’t have to stay where he was at
 - Revelation that the son had choices as to what he could do
 - Remembering gives us HOPE
-

It is the “REVELATION” from God that leads to a response:

- It leads to a determined decision to RETURN
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I love the idea of restoration but not the process

Definition “RESTORATION”

Hebrew: A primitive root; “to turn back” (hence, away) transitively or intransitively, literally or figuratively (not necessarily with the idea of return to the starting point);

Greek: “to set in the joint” such as a broken or dislocated bone to complete thoroughly, that is, repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust: - fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect (-ly join together), prepare, restore. LIKE PUTTING ON A CAST

My experience with being in a cast:

- They are fun the first week: *You get attention!*
 - Friends sign your cast and gives cards!
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- But I don't like casts:
 - Because they are too restrictive
 - Because they are immobilizing
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- Broken Finger = *I kept the cast on less than 1 week*
 - Tore Right Ankle = *I kept the cast on less than 3 days*
 - Dislocated both shoulders = *I kept the slings on less than 1 week*
 - Left ankle surgery: "I'm going to stay the course"
 - Thinking it would be 6 weeks in a cast
 - It turned out to be from Oct thru March in a cast
-

The doctors are thinking the best when they place you in a cast

- They want the bone to heal in a way that it will never break again
-

God wants RESTORATION so we are back to His original purposes

But, in order for restoration to take place,

- We need to RETURN back to God.
 - We need to REPENT.
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Two Definitions of "repentance":

1. **Change the way you think:** ; GREEK: to think differently or afterwards, that is, reconsider (morally to feel compunction): - repent.

Isaiah 55:8 "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

2. **Change the direction you are going:** HEBREW: A primitive root; to turn back (hence, away) transitively or intransitively, literally or figuratively (not necessarily with the idea of return to the starting point);

Illustration: Want to go to Duluth on 35SOUTH.

- It doesn't matter how fast you are driving.
- It doesn't matter what type of vehicle you are driving.
- You need to:
 - STOP, TURN AROUND.
 - GO ANOTHER DIRECTION.

PLEASE OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO HOSEA 6:1-3

Repentance is a combination of internal & external changes

#1 REPENT (*Change that affects the internal*)

- Change of heart that results in changed behavior.
- Turning around.
- “I’m going to find my life in God”

Jeremiah 2:13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, *And* hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. 14 “Is Israel a servant? Is he a home born slave? Why is he plundered?”

Sounds like the prodigal son

Luke 15:17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."'

#2 REPENT (*Change that affects the external*)

READ HOSEA 6:1-3

These may be taken as either the words of:

- The prophet Hosea pleading with the people to return
 - Or The people quoting God’s words with no real repentance
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Israel recognizes her situation but turns Assyrians for help

- Israel’s heart is revealed by her actions rather than her words.
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Despite verbal expressions of repentance,

- Israel constantly turns back to her sins
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People were quoting a “formula” in Hosea 6:1-3

- We do this, God will/has to do that”
-

God says, “NO WAY! It doesn’t work that way.”

- We come to Him broken and repentant confessing our sin

The Father is calling out today: “Return to Me for I am the wellspring”

Joel 2:12 “Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He *is* gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Isaiah 44:22 “I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”

Isaiah 55:7 “Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

But, it’s not enough to simply hear what God is saying

- Or to listen to the preacher
 - Or to read your Bible
-

It’s not enough to just listen to what Jesus said

- This is a call to action - A call to return to the Lord
 - You need to respond
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The Prodigal son responded to what was going on in his heart

- That is why he was restored
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It is not enough to just admit something is wrong

The Prodigal son said;

“I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you’ (Luke 15:18)

If we want restoration in our life:

- We need to **REMEMBER** – *stop, pause, think*
 - And then We must **REPENT** – *go a different direction*
 - And then we need to **RETURN-** *back to God*
-

The person who attends church every week with no intention of responding to what they are hearing is actually a hypocrite.

It is better to just be what you are and say to God:

- *“I am not into this - I don't believe in this - I don't care about this”*
-

Than to pretend to be spiritual when you are not.

- **God hates hypocrisy.** *Someone who pretends to be someone they really are not.*

HOW DO WE RESPOND?

We need to respond to the work of the Holy Spirit

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me.” John 16:7-8

The Holy Spirit has specific work that He wants to do.

- This includes convicting us of our sin.
- “SIN” is anything that separates us from God.

The Holy Spirit takes the message of the death and resurrection of Jesus, shows us it is true, and shows us that we need to turn to God.

Without the convicting power of the Spirit, *you will never come to Jesus!*

The Holy Spirit doesn't convict us of our sin to drive us to despair, but to send us into the open arms of Jesus.

Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost,

- The people "were cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37).
- **GREEK:** to *pierce thoroughly*, that is, (figuratively) to *agitate* violently (“sting to the quick”): - prick.

The Holy Spirit will convict you but not to destroy you.

- It is to show you your need for Jesus.

Jeremiah 24:7 Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.

Hosea 6:1 “Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.”

And Jesus will take you to the Father

- So that you can be restored

John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

LET’S PRAY: Allow God to set you in a cast - *For as long as it takes*

David Crowder - "How He Loves" (*lyrics next page*)

BENEDICTION:

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

David Crowder: “How He Loves Us”

He is jealous for me,
Loves like a hurricane; I am a tree,
Bending beneath the weight of his wind and mercy.
When all of a sudden,
I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory,
And I realize just how beautiful You are,
And how great Your affections are for me.

And oh, how He loves us so,
Oh how He loves us,
How He loves us all

Yeah, He loves us,
Oh! how He loves us,
Oh! how He loves us,
Oh! how He loves.

We are His portion and He is our prize,
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes,
If grace is an ocean, we're all sinking.
And Heaven meets earth like an unforeseen kiss,
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest,
I don't have time to maintain these regrets,
When I think about, the way...