

BECOMING LOVE

H O L I N E S S I N 2 0 2 0

Talk-It-Over: Week 4

Finding Freedom

Spend time going over questions and comments from the this week's sermon.

The story of the 'Prodigal Son' is perhaps the most famous of Jesus stories. The story goes that a young son asks his father for his inheritance (basically saying "I wish you were dead") and when he receives it, he takes off for the bright lights of the foreign land. He discovers that money hasn't filled the hole he thought he had in his life. He sinks further and further into a life of parties and prostitutes. He gives himself over to his desires for popularity and pleasure in the attempt to find meaning and fulfilment in life. When the money runs out, his friends desert him, and he ends up eating the food of pigs. He discovers that what he had started doing to fill the void in his life had taken over and made him a slave until he had nothing and felt like he was no one.

The heart warming beauty of the story comes when he decides to go and beg his father to allow him to come back and work for him. While he was still a long way off, his father sees him and runs to meet him. He interrupts the son's speech with love and restores his place in the family.

It's a perfect picture of God's love. In Romans 6 we see that even though God's love is always there, its unflinching, unflagging and unending, that's no reason to assume that we would all go off and enslave ourselves to popularity, pleasure or power, because we know it ends with us in the mud of a pig pen.

Read:

Romans 6:1-18

Questions:

1. Have you ever been reckless, resulting in an injury to yourself? Why did you do it?
2. In Romans 6 Paul refers to enslavement in a way that seems to be drawing a comparison with the fact that the Israelite people as a whole were enslaved by the Egyptians, before God redeemed them and brought them out, guiding them through the wilderness until

they reached the promised land. What other aspects of the exodus story can you see in verses 1-5?

3. What is it that enslaves people today? What are some of the subtle ways in which people are drawn into this enslavement?
4. What does Paul mean when he says, in verse 6 (and 8) “Our old self was crucified with [Jesus]?”
5. In what way do we ‘count ourselves dead to sin’? (v11)
6. In what way do we live lives that are ‘Alive to God in Christ Jesus’? (v11)

Prayer Time:

Pray that you would stand strong against the desires within you that threaten to enslave you and bring you down.

Pray that you would know the reality of being crucified with Christ.

Pray that you would know the freedom of living lives alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Further Reading:

Romans 6:19-23

Romans 7:1-25