



THE HEART OF GOD'S TO OURS

Part 1: Losing Your Religion

Introduction

During this series, we're going to have one big heart-to-heart. But not with each other, but rather with God's heart to our hearts. Over the next three sessions, we're going to be looking at three of Jesus's most famous parables that happen sequentially all in one chapter in the Gospel of Luke. They work together to give us a picture of the heart of God toward people.

Discussion Questions

1. When we discuss the "heart of God," we're discussing his character. How would you describe God's character? How would your neighbors or co-workers describe God's character?
2. Read Luke 15:1–2. What types of people are in Jesus's company?
3. Do you resonate more closely with a tax collector, a sinner, or a teacher of the law? Why?
4. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus mixing it up with all sorts of people, challenging everyone's presuppositions about religion. In fact, Jesus was the most anti-religious, religious figure the first century had ever seen. How has Jesus recently challenged your religious assumptions?
5. Read Luke 15:3–10. What interesting observations surface from these parables?
6. These parables reflect the heart of God. He's on a grand search mission: those the religious looked down upon, Jesus looked for. How can you align your heart with the heart of God?

Moving Forward

Jesus said, "I have come to seek and save the lost." He's not waiting for us to figure it all out and clean ourselves up. Unfortunately, it's commonplace to believe you have to **behave** properly to gain a relationship with God. In theological terms, if you repented, then you'd receive grace. But for God, it all starts with relationship; grace was the catalyst for repentance. And that new relationship is the vehicle for a beautiful transformation.