

NOTES ON TODAY'S TOPIC.

Luke 15: 'We had to celebrate.'

Nature of the feast

- v23 fattened calf = inclusive occasion
- v25 music and dancing = relational occasion

In other words: A feast is what we're made for

Barrier: 'just a story'

Example: 1 Chron 15:28-29

Aroma of the feast

- v17 attracted the younger son
- v25 angered the older son

In other words: A feast is what we long for

Barrier: 'that's not fair'

Example: 2Cor 2:14

Joy of the feast

- longing to celebrating v5, 9, 23
- dead to alive v32: had to celebrate... also v7, 10, 24
- lost to found - Jesus on outside so we could be on the inside

In other words: A feast is what Christ died for

Barrier: 'nothing tastes'

Example: Heb 3-4

Questions for further thought in Life Groups this week.

Read Chapter 6 & 7 of *The Prodigal God* by Tim Keller

The following questions are a quick guide. Please refer to the full questions with more detail and notes for leaders in *The Prodigal God* discussion guide by Tim Keller p59-65

1. How is our longing for home explained through the 'big picture' story of the bible from creation to new creation? Can you think of examples where the promise of home is given?
2. How does the reality of being part of the banquet of heaven already transform you?
3. Which of the barriers to celebrating a relationship with God with joy mentioned in the talk are particular issues for you and your friends?
4. How can you become more joyful in your relationship with God day by day?
5. What are you looking forward to the most about the feast of the new creation?
6. What are the main lessons you've learnt in these studies? What difference will those lessons make in the future to you?