NOTES ON TODAY'S TOPIC.

Luke 15: 'He welcomes sinners.'

The revealing question

The problem of assumptions

The rule breaking parable

The game changing message of Jesus:
1. Redefines how God sees us

The sheep is lost through foolishness, the coin through thoughtlessness, and the son through wilfulness.

2. Redefines how God acts towards us

So what?
Reprogramme our assumptions about ourselves
- accepting we're lost and are in need of being found
Reprogramme our assumptions about God
- accepting God loves us despite what we've done not because of it
Reprogramme our assumptions about others
- accepting God sees us all as either lost or found

Questions for further thought in Life Groups this week.

Read Chapter 1 of The Prodigal God by Tim Keller
The following questions are found in more detail with notes for leaders in The Prodigal God discussion guide by Tim Keller p21-29

1. What does the audience of the parable tell you about Jesus' purpose in telling t? What should the name of the parable be?

2. How have you seen both religious and irreligious people demonstrate lostness and spiritual emptiness?

3. Why were the pharisees and teachers of the law opposed to Jesus? What other examples of this opposition are there? Is the reason always the same?

4. Have you observed the dynamic Jesus describes of a parent pleasing sibling and an openly rebellious sibling?

5. Why is it that churches don't always welcome the marginalised? How could we make them feel more welcome at JC?