

NOTES ON TODAY'S TOPIC.

Luke 15: 'Give me my share.'

- The desert island test:
 - If you were put on a desert island what would you miss the most from your current life?
 - If then you were told you could keep one thing from your current life (eg job, a relationship, a possession or status) what would you want to keep?
 - The chain of command test:
 - to whom/what do I give allegiance? At whose word do I sit up and take notice?
 - upon whom/what do I depend? Who/what can sort things out?
 - who/what can make me safe and happy? What needs to be in place to get on with life?
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The possession of greatest value: being part of God's family for everlasting

Shock 1. The outrageous request

- rooted in a devotion to things and a contempt for the value of family

Shock 2. The outrageous response

- giving without debate or retribution

3 wake up contrasts in bible:

Eph 2: you were dead, objects of wrath but made alive by grace

Rom 7&8: you were slaves to the guilt of sin but no condemnation through grace

Eccl 3: Life futile but delight when see as gift of God who sets eternity in our hearts

The value audit:

- What do you value most of all?
- What value do you put on being part of God's family?

Compare the values...

- Of the things you value most of all, what value is added by enjoying it as part of God's family and what value is destroyed by enjoying it in isolation from a relationship with God?

Compare the added value...

The idol diet:

1. Compare the value
 2. Cast off the idol
 3. Celebrate the value of heavenly family grace
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Questions for further thought in Life Groups this week.

Read Chapters 2&3 of *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller (Hodder & Stoughton 2009)

Questions for further thought can be found on pages 31-40 of *The Prodigal God Discussion Guide* by Timothy Keller (Zondervan, 2009)