

St. John's EBCs, Everyday Bible Conversations!

EBC 3, 2, 1! – On Location in 2025! Leading to Worship Sunday, March 30, 2025

Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

EBC focuses on bringing the Bible into our Everyday Lives, emphasizing God's Everyday presence by finding connections in our physical world! EBC also has a video component on the St. John's website and St. John's YouTube channel. This week, we explore God's grace from the perspective of the Prodigal Son's father. Click here: <https://youtu.be/O4nLjQcoMRY> Welcome to this week's EBC 3,2,1! Three points, two questions, and one action step!

Three Points

- This week's verses feature the well-known story of the Prodigal son. He demands his share of his father's wealth, and then squanders it all, until he is alone and starving, tending pigs in a far-away land.
- The son determines to return, willing to be not a son, but a servant for his father, for even his father's servants have food to eat. But when he returns, his father welcomes him joyously, and throws a magnificent party, including a feast with the fatted calf.
- The elder son is chagrined (for he had been a dutiful son, working hard this whole time for his father), but the father explains, simply: "[A]ll that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." (Luke 15:31-32)

Two Questions

- Perhaps because we have heard the story so many times, the father's joy and grace seem obvious, but what would you do as parent (1) when your child demanded what was yours, (2) left to parts unknown and wasted everything, and (3) then came back? How do our learned senses of "how to parent" get in the way of unconditional grace?
- We often extol the virtues of "fairness," "justice," and even "street smarts," but take a moment to rank the importance of following ideas using this parable as a guide: (a) earning, (b) fairness, (c) just desserts, (d) "tough love" or "teaching moments," (d) skepticism (fear of being taken advantage of), (e) joy and grace.

Action Step

- Find a way, big or small, to "return" to God this week! He will come to you with open arms!

Don't like these questions? Do these verses say something different to you? Great! What it is?

And as always, you are encouraged to find a friend (or two or many) and take an EBC coffee break! Find 15-25 minutes somewhere in the week and share your faith. Have fun finding God this week in your Everyday Life!