

# PART VI: The Greatest of All

Fecha @November 29, 2023

## SILENCE, PRAYER, AND WORSHIP

Take a minute in silence to put your focus on Jesus

## DIVIDE IN TRIADS

- 1) Share one or two good things that happened in the last week
- 2) Share one or two not-so good things that happened in the last week
- 3) Update each other about last week's prayer petitions and share any new one you might have

## LAST WEEK'S PRACTICE

Last week's practice was; As you go through your week, keep adding to the list reasons why you will have a hard time following Jesus, and reasons why you will have a hard time not following Jesus. And before next Wednesday, take about 10-15 minutes to reflect and write down what this comparison practice helped you see. And, if possible, may it help you make a decision (if you haven't already) to die to yourself, follow Jesus, and live for God

- How did it help you see the cost of following Jesus, and see the cost of not following Jesus?
- Did seeing these two lists help anyone make the decision (or reaffirm their decision) to follow Jesus?

## SUMMARY.

The greatest characteristic of Jesus was love; not because he loves, but because he is love. And all around the Bible we see verses about the importance of loving one another. And Jesus, being perfect, showed us that we should love even those who will reject us. But above all he invites us not to be like the older brother; that instead of rejoicing with his brother for having returned to the Father's house, he was angry at the mercy and grace that had been shown to him

## SUNDAY'S TEACHING.

- What did the Holy Spirit speak to you (or got your attention) about Sunday's teaching?

## **Luke 15:1-2, 31-32**

- Why do you think Jesus told this story of the "prodigal son" to the Pharisees and teachers of the law? And why do you think it is still relevant to you today? Remember to answer in first person
- How does your way of seeing this story change when you understand that the protagonist of the parable was not the younger brother, but the older brother and his attitude?

## THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE

### **First.**

- Take a couple of seconds and ask the Holy Spirit to show you who have you had the older brother attitude towards (that you have not been happy when he/she has been doing well, or when he/she has been shown grace and mercy. And you have judged him/her)
  - It could be someone from church, an older blood brother, a friend from school, someone at work, etc.
  - Don't try to rationalize it. Ask the Holy Spirit, close your eyes, and the first person that comes to mind is most likely that one. And if you are trying to make that person not be, then it is a sign that they are.
  - Then write their name at the bottom

- The person with whom I have had an attitude like that of the older brother is:
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**Second.**

- Now take a few seconds to write what effects having that attitude with the person has had on your life. Remember to focus on yourself and what you have done and not what the other person has done
    - It can be bitterness, the damage of a relationship, that you have walked away from that relationship, you have spoken badly about that person, it has damaged other relationships, you have walked away from the church, you have given up, you are angry with God, etc. Be as honest as possible.
  - Having this attitude has caused in me:
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**Third.**

- The Bible does not tell us what happens next between the two brothers, but Jesus always invites us to repair the damage done. With God, and with other people. Now make a decision about what you are going to do to repair that relationship you have damaged and affected. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to know what to do
    - It can be writing a letter asking for forgiveness, buying a coffee, going to the person and asking for forgiveness directly, etc
    - Then write at the bottom WHAT you are going to do and WHEN you are going to do it. Remember that the faster you do it, "the less difficult it will be." The more time you let pass, the more likely it is that you won't do it
  - What I'm going to do is:
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- And I'm going to do it (date):
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