

Two Gods

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Slide Notes

We are 6 weeks into the New Year...

I am still doing good on my bible reading plan

Youversion.com

We live in a world where hurting people hurt people

And into that world, I am sending my kids

That scares me sometimes

I'm trying to send my two kids out into the world so full of love that when culture tries to spill them, they will not empty

That they know the word so well that they never doubt who they are and never doubt who He is

I will always love them no matter what

I am scared that they will think that I am 2 dads

We think that there are 2 gods

I have this thought that God really really loves me when I am doing good

And when I am not doing good He has His arms folded with a scowl of disappointment on His face

I think we live our lives as if there is a Pre Crucifixion God and a Post Crucifixion God

If you're a Christian,

At some point in your life you've been blown away by the graciousness and wild love God had for you Pre Crucifixion

He so greatly desired your presence and your closeness that he sent his only Son to the cross to draw you near

There is no greater love

We are overwhelmed by Pre Crucifixion God

Almost wasteful in his love for us he pours it out so generously and lavishly

And then... we start to live life

Time starts to stack up between us and that moment when we first encountered Pre-Crucifixion God

And we make some mistakes

We fail

We fall down

That is when we find ourselves hiding in the shadows

Like Adam and Eve accepting the one piece of fruit that they could not have when they were already given the whole orchard, we choose the small and insignificant and we blow it

In that moment, what do we do?

Luke 15

A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, "I want my share of your estate now before you die."

The guy already had everything he could want in his father's house

He wanted to separate what is his from what is his father's

Hey it's mine...give it to me

What you freely give is not enough...I WANT MINE!!!

"Surely you will not die...God is keeping something from you"

Luke 15

So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money on wild living.

The further away we get from being in the Father's presence the easier it is to do whatever our flesh allows

Sin tastes sweeter

Good tastes bitter

Luke 15

About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

God is speaking in your circumstances right now

If you will listen and take a look around at your life you will see

Luke 15

When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."'

Finally wisdom returns...

"I was only truly happy when I was in relationship with God"

How could I have left?

I have sinned

When we return we really need to be willing to admit that

If we sneak in...we can sneak back out

And be willing to do whatever assignment He gives us

Not that He will treat us as a hired servant

We come to Him in humbleness (undeserving) and boldness (knowing His nature) at the same time

Luke 15

So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming.

Do we run back to Pre-Crucifixion God?

This God of mine, he loved me so much that he sent his son to die for me. Where else could I find love like that? Where could I find forgiveness like that? Look what he did in the past, surely he would love me in the present!

No...that is usually not what we do

I construct a less loving God

He has rules and regulations

He is not so loving

He is a God who keeps score failure

I end up finding an After Crucifixion God

A less loving God than the one I used to know

I end up serving two Gods

Luke 15

Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son."

Luke 15

But his father said to the servants, "Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found." So the party began.

Luke 15:10

...there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.

What if it is not the angels who are rejoicing? What if it is your dad?

But the truth is, there is only one God

God was not just loving in the past, He is love

God was not just forgiving in the past, He is forgiveness

God was not just gracious in the past, He is grace

The God who drew you near with the death of His Son, is the same God who loves you through the new failures of the new day

That wild love, is still the love He gives

There is only one God

I hope that my kids will always know my love for them is not subject to performance or accomplishment.

And I'm only a dad, a broken human of a dad

Imagine how the one God feels about you?

In the pigpen

He loves us