

Introduction: The “Why” of Easter

- The fact of a historical resurrection is the “What” of Easter. Mark 10:45
- Jesus’ prayer the night before His death explains the “Why” of Easter. John 17:1-6

¹ After Jesus said this, He looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You.

² For You granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him.

³ Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, who You have sent.

⁴ I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do.

⁵ And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began.

⁶ I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me...”

John 17: 1 – 6 (NIV)

1. What did He ask? **GLORIFY** Your Son.
2. Why did He come? To **GIVE** eternal life.
3. How did He do it? He **REVEALED** what God is like.

“What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

A.W. Tozer

What is God Like?

Luke 15

1. The Parable of the **LOST** Sheep:

- Something is lost.
- Something is found.
- A great celebration.
- A snapshot of **HEAVEN**.

2. The Parable of the **LOST** Coin:

- Something is lost.
- Something is found.
- *A great celebration.*
- A snapshot of **ANGELS** in heaven.

3. The Parable of the **LOST** Sons:

- Someone was lost.
- Someone was found.
- A great celebration.
- A snapshot of God as **FATHER**.
- An unexpected ending.

The Father's Heart Revealed:

1. **YOU** are exceedingly precious to God our Father.
2. Our willful **REBELLION** keeps us from experiencing the Father's love and provision.
3. The Father is daily waiting for you to come **HOME**.
4. Our arrogant **SELF-RELIANCE** keeps us from experiencing the Father's love and provision.
5. Jesus made a way for **ALL** who would **COME** to Him to have God as their Father.

²⁸ *Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

²⁹ *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

³⁰ *For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*

Matthew 11: 28 – 30 (NIV)

Application and Discussion:

1. What comes to your mind when you think about God? What / who do you perceive Him to be like?
2. Where did you get your view of God? Parents? Family? Religious background? Negative or positive experiences in your past?
3. What new insight did you get today about what God is really like? How does viewing Him as a loving and forgiving Father change your perspective?
4. What would it look like for you to respond to Jesus' invitation to "come to Him" from where you are today?
5. Who could help you in this journey?
6. Action Steps:
 - Ask God to reveal Himself to you in a way you can understand.
 - Read the Gospel of John and watch for His answer!