

April 6 & 7, 2024

# WE CELEBRATE LIFE CHANGE

DR. ED NEWTON

WE THE  
MISSION VISION VALUES  
CHURCH

## Community Bible Church Sermon Discussion Questions: Apr 7, 2024 Pastor Ed Newton

### Title: We Celebrate Life Change

**Text:** *“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*  
(Luke 15:10 ESV)

**Target:** The Church must emulate what heaven celebrates.

**Question #1:** Reflecting on the time since you began walking with the Lord, *what significant life changes have you experienced and celebrated? Why do you believe it's crucial for us to celebrate these changes?*

- I. **The Purpose of the Parables:** *“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.”* (Luke 15:1)
  - A. **Accusations towards Jesus:** *“And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying...”* (Luke 15:2a)
  - B. **Acceptance of Jesus:** *“This man receives sinners and eats with them. **So He told them this parable:**”* (Luke 15:2b-3)
    1. **Afflict the Comfortable:** Pharisees and Scribes
    2. **Comfort the Afflicted:** Tax Collectors and Sinners.

**Question #2:** Luke 15 intentionally opens with a verse that sets the context and setting for the following parables by highlighting “tax collectors and sinners drew near.” *How did Jesus challenge the rigid structures of religious tradition in his day? What lessons can we learn from his example and implement in our daily lives? When reaching out to a lost world, how can we maintain boundaries that help prevent us from corrupting our walk as Christians?*

- II. **The Parallel in the Parables:** Sheep, Coin, Son
  - A. **The Loss is Noticed:** It matters that it's Missing (Vs. 3, 8, 13)
  - B. **The Pursuit is Personal:** *“Seek and to save that which was lost.”* (Luke 19:10)
    1. **Leaves the 99 (lingering in danger):** *“open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?”* (15:4)
    2. **Cleans the House (lying in darkness):** *“light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?”* (15:8)
    3. **Waits on the Porch (living in deception):** *“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him”* (15:20)

**Question #3:** Over and over, Jesus bridges the gap between God's ultimate authority and His personal care and investment into our lives. *What damage can we experience by believing a misconception that God desires distance from us or is unattainable to us? How should God's true desire for a genuine and close relationship shape our routine in life?*

**C. The Celebration is an Invitation:**

1. **Sheep is Rescued:** *"And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'" (15:6)*
2. **Coin is Revealed:** *"And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'" (15:9)*
3. **Son is Restored:** *"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate." (15:24)*

**Question #4:** *What are effective ways to celebrate significant moments of life change, breakthroughs, or spiritual growth? How can we use occasions like birthdays, graduations, and other significant life events to purposefully express gratitude to God? What traditions surrounding these moments of celebration could we establish for future generations to easily embrace?*

III. **The Point of the Parable:** *"It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found." (15:32)*

- A. **The Value of the One:** People matter more than sheep and coins.
- B. **Rescue & Relocate is the Mission:** Just one more.
- C. **Never give up on what's been Lost:** Stay Diligent.
- D. **New Starts and New Steps Matter:** Be Good News.
- E. **Celebrating becomes Motivating:** Encourages Growth.
- F. **Parties are Heavenly:** If it matters to God, it matters to us.

**Takeaway:** Imitation is the greatest form of Appreciation

**Question #5:** After reviewing the "point of the Parable" above, which point resonates most with your current life stage or inspires you the most to make changes? What specific steps will you take to implement this insight into your life this week?