

**God Prefers a Reluctant Heart**  
**A Tale of Two Christians, Uh... Sons**  
**Pastor Steve**

**Key Verse of the Day**

*"A man with two sons told the older boy, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' The son answered, 'No, I won't go,' but later he changed his mind and went anyway. Then the father told the other son, 'You go,' and he said, 'Yes, sir, I will.' But he didn't go." "Which of the two obeyed his father?"*

*They replied, "The first." Then Jesus explained his meaning: "I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn't believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins." Matthew 21:28-32 NIV*

**Lessons Learned From Son #1**

- God isn't really concerned with people's past, He is much more concerned with where they are at \_\_\_\_\_.

*The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught. Isaiah 29:13 NIV*

**Reality Check**

**God is looking for people who are \_\_\_\_\_ about knowing him and are in the \_\_\_\_\_ of becoming more like Jesus.**

*For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. 2 Peter 1:5-9 NIV*

If you are not growing in your faith you haven't really understood the wonder of being \_\_\_\_\_.

*When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.*

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Luke 7:36-48 NIV

### **Lesson Learned From Son #2**

- God is looking for people who are \_\_\_\_\_.

God is not impressed with people who are good at practicing \_\_\_\_\_ but don't demonstrate a real \_\_\_\_\_ within them.

*The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 NLT*

### **An Authentic Life...**

- Displays the \_\_\_\_\_.

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23 NLT*

- Demonstrates a \_\_\_\_\_.

*So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. John 13:34 NLT*

- \_\_\_\_\_ within the Kingdom.

*Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Romans 12:11 NLT*

- Seeks to \_\_\_\_\_.

*...go and make disciples of all the nations... Matthew 28:18 NLT*

### **The Challenge**

In what area of your Christian life could you be more authentic?