

When you listen to, read, or watch a story, do you find yourself asking, "Which character am I?"

Go back and read Luke 15:1-7. In this passage, we see that there were two types of people standing in the crowd before Jesus: tax collectors and sinners, and Pharisees and scribes.

Which character are you in the crowd of listeners?

We fit in to one of these two categories of people in the crowd. You either perceive yourself as a sinner, aware of your brokenness, or you view yourself as the Pharisees saw themselves-proud of your ability to be a "good person" and follow the rules.

Read the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42.

What are some similarities in behavior and attitude between Martha and the older brother from this week's message (the Prodigal Son)?

What point is Jesus making in both of these examples?

Christ didn't come to save the bad and reward the good. Regardless of whether we've taken God's stuff and run with it like the younger brother or hung around church our whole lives to impress God with our good behavior, we fall short of the goodness of God.

Regardless of where you've been, or what you've done in life, Jesus looks on you with overwhelming love. He is a God that joyfully runs to you, throws His arms around you in a warm embrace and calls you His beloved child as He welcomes you home.

We're invited to believe that Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross already put us in good standing with God, regardless of our past mistakes. Take the advice that the disciples received; believe that because of what Jesus has done, God runs to welcome you home.

January 6, 2019
Tales of the Kingdom
Kingdom Culture
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Luke 15

 All **People Matter**
Luke 19:10 Lu 5:32

 FREE WILL **Is Given Free**
Reign
Romans 1:21-25 1 Samuel 15:11

The Purpose of PATIENCE
2 Peter 3:9 Proverbs 14:12

The Necessary Step is REPENTANCE

Unconditional Love
1Corinthians 13:4-13