

Introduction: “See to it that no one misses the grace of God.”

Hebrews 12:15

- “In general, the churches... bore for me the relation to God that billboards did to Coca-Cola: they provided thirst without quenching it.”

John Updike
A Month of Sundays

- “I went looking for spirit and found alcohol; I went looking for soul and I bought some style; I wanted to meet God, but they sold me religion.”

Bono
Walk on: The Spiritual Journey of U2

Why isn't the "Good News" good news anymore?

1. Jesus tells a story:

- The occasion Luke 15:1
- The conflict Luke 15:2
- The parable Luke 15:3-32

2. What did this story teach about God's heart for lost people?

- The younger son receives _____.
- The father receives the son's _____.

3. What was Jesus' _____ to the elder brothers (Pharisees) of that day?

4. How do you _____ if you're an "elder brother"?
5. What is Jesus saying to us "elder brother" types today?
6. How did the elder brother respond to the father's invitation to _____?
7. What keeps _____ and _____ brothers from responding to God's grace?

Questions to Ponder:

1. What keeps you from responding to God's grace?
2. Do you see yourself as more of a younger brother or older brother?
3. Are there fears that hold you back from responding and receiving God's grace? What are they?
4. How would Christians be viewed if we saw lost people the way Jesus does, and God our Father the way Jesus revealed Him?