



## Easter Sunday- Finding Your Way Home

### MAIN THING

We've Never Needed Easter Sunday More Than We Do Right Now

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:14-24, Psalm 33:12, Proverbs 14:34, Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 7:24-27, John 10:7-15

### ICEBREAKER

One thing I was taught as a kid was . . . .

### OPENING THOUGHT

Charles Dickens said that the story of the prodigal son may be the greatest short story ever told because there are so many profound themes that reverberate in it. In it, we see the blessing that righteousness brings, the destruction that sin brings, and the consequences of sin and the beauty of redemption. It exists on a personal level as well as a national level. A person, a family, a church, a group, or a nation can all be the prodigal son. The biggest question facing us in this story is: how long will we stay in the pig sty?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. Why do you think that in a nation full of churches and a large number of Christians that we have such evil and disobedience to God? Where does all this evil come from?
3. Matthew 7:24-27 talks about the house built on the rock- how it was able to withstand the rains and storms. Do you think the time of testing our faith is upon us? How have you "built your house upon the rock" so that you will not fall with a great crash?

### LIFE APPLICATION

One of the beautiful things about the story of the prodigal son is that the father allows his son to experience the full consequences of his actions. He doesn't rush in to save him from his own stupidity. He lets his son squander his wealth, fall among characters of low morals, and become destitute. He allows his son to experience starvation. Why? Simple. We only learn through experiencing consequences. Many of us are experiencing those consequences now- but our stubbornness is keeping us from the blessing of God. Our national stubbornness against God is keeping us in the pig sty, and He'll continue to let us experience the consequences until we "come to our senses" and return. Question- what do you think it will take for this nation to "come to our senses?" What will have to happen to us in order for us to realize our path has been a bad one and return to God? Is it an invasion by a foreign power? An economic disaster? A civil war? What do you think America has to experience in order for us to return to God?

### CHALLENGE

Remember that God's grace is bigger than any sin or rebellion we will ever commit, no matter how terrible. Our own stubbornness, not God's ways, are keeping us in the pig sty. Take a moment to evaluate any rebellion against God's word in your life. Is your life marked with righteousness? What needs to change in order for your life to be lived in accordance with God's word and God's will?