



Know God | Jordan Hansen

Luke 15:11-32

Dog Jokes:

What do you get when you cross a dog and a calculator?
What do dogs eat for breakfast?
What is a dog's favorite instrument?

"Who knew that dog saliva can mend a broken heart." - Jennifer Neal

Dogs love unconditionally. Dogs make coming home PURE JOY.

At Mesa Church we want people to come home.

Our mission is to lead people into a GROWING relationship with Jesus.

The name Mesa: Table & Flat Top Mountain

How do we do that? We set the table for people to: [Come to the Monthly MIXER to hear our heart...]

KNOW GOD

FIND FREEDOM

DISCOVER PURPOSE

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

That is home! We're going to look at KNOWING GOD today & reasons that prevent us from KNOWING GOD & His love.

→What are the major reasons people don't want to COME HOME?→Luke 15:11-32

If people knew the unconditional love of God, why would they not want to come home?! For some, we've been distracted by the things of this world. For others, we've been confused about the nature of God and whether or not He can love us. And for others, we've allowed comparison to impact our own relationship. In reality, we've likely struggled with all of these reasons at some point in our lives. And yet, God waits with open arms. So, come home!

Luke 15:11-19: *11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. 12 The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.*

13 "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. 14 About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. 15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

17 "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."

We are far too easily pleased.

- CS Lewis Quote→Your soul's greatest desire is God.→**Not every desire drives me closer to God!**
- The son wanted his stuff so he could do whatever he wanted.→Gentile land/pigs/pods...hunger.
- My dad was awakened!→Recognize where your desires have led you AWAY from God: money, sex, power...
- Prayer: Forgive me of my sins & awaken my hunger for YOU!

→Transition: We recognize there is more...but i'm not ready give my life to God...bc i dont believe God loves me.

Luke 15:20-24:20 *"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'*

22 "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

We are far too easily confused.→"Why does God hate me?"→We don't know who God is...or who we are...

- The son didn't know how his father would respond!→God runs = Robe, ring, sandals & a FEAST = Redemption!
- Judah / VIDEO→**Nothing can change God's love for us.**→Rembrandt→100 dollar value
- This doesn't mean life will be perfect!→Rom. 8:35-39→We have to experience God's love...
- The church is called to help people encounter God.→VISION: Presence not performance. ENCOUNTER!
- Prayer: God overwhelm us with your love! Remind us of WHO we are...your sons & daughters!

→Transition: I know who I am & that GOD LOVES ME. But...what about that guy/gal?! Their sin is greater than mine.

Luke 15:25-32 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, 26 and he asked one of the servants what was going on. 27 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.'

28 "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, 29 but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. 30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!'

31 "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. 32 We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!'"

We are far too easily offended.→AB Potts quote

- The older brother wasn't losing anything. He still had 2/3rds. But he compares his life to his brothers.
- **Comparison blinds us to our sin and judges others for theirs.**→At least I'm not...or at least I don't struggle with...but look at all I've done...as if our works SAVE us.→I'M OFFENDED that God would allow this or do this...
- We want mercy and grace for our lives...but God forbid he extends it to the lives of others.→Yellow-wash snow
- **The cross is unfair!**→Jesus, who knew NO SIN, became OUR sin... - 2 Cor. 5:21→VISION: Come to the Table...
- If you are going to compare...compare yourself after Christ to Pre-Christ...that leads to GRATITUDE, not offense.
- Prayer: Lord help us to be grateful, not offended!

→Transition: If God loves me...he can love anyone. I can't be offended by that. THIS IS THE CHURCH!!

We are far too easily pleased, but our souls have deeper desires.

We are far too easily confused, but our value is determined by God not our experiences.

We are far too easily offended, but God took the ultimate punishment upon Himself!

→**Come home because God is waiting!**→PRAYER: Father, us to come home & to bring others with us!

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Think about a time when you loved "coming home." What contributed to that desire?
2. How do we overcome being far too easily pleased to come home?
3. How do we overcome being far too easily confused to come home?
4. How do we overcome being far too easily offended to come home?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help us to COME HOME and to bring others with us!"

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **Blog Article, "Why Does God Hate Me?":** <https://www.pts.edu/blog/why-does-god-hate-me/>
- **NY Times Article, "Googling for God":** <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/20/opinion/sunday/seth-stephens-davidowitz-googling-for-god.html>

QUOTES / SONGS:

"Who knew that dog saliva can mend a broken heart." - Jennifer Neal

We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." - CS Lewis

"I have no problem with god - it's his fan club that scares me." - A.B. Potts

A couple of months ago, the New York Times ran a fascinating article called "Googling for God." In this piece, author Seth Stephens-Davidowitz explores recent trends in Google search data specifically related to questions people pose about God. Stephens-Davidowitz notes that the number one God-related question people ask on Google is, "Who created God?" Not surprisingly, number two is "Why does God allow suffering?" However, I was shocked and dismayed to see the question that came in at number three: "Why does God hate me?" - Rev. Dr. Leanna K. Fuller

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Matthew 6:33

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Romans 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

*"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 2:4

4 Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

2 Corinthians 5:21

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

MESA VISION LINKS:

- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

NEXTS STEPS:

- [Fill Out an Online Connect Card](#)
- [Join a Small Group](#)
- [Get Water Baptized](#)
- [Become a Partner of Mesa Church](#)
- [Join a Dream Team to Serve on Sundays](#)
- [Give to what God is doing](#)
- [Submit a Prayer Request](#)
- [Learn More About Fasting](#)
- [Share a testimony or story of God working in my life.](#)

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