



High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study

Fall 2023 Study – *The Prodigal God* by Tim Keller

Chapter 7: The Feast of the Father | Tuesday, December 5, 2023

This fall we're conducting a series based on Tim Keller's book, *The Prodigal God*. It's a powerful book that communicates how much God loves us and the power in understanding that love. It's a brilliant twist on one of Jesus' most famous parables, known by most as *The Prodigal Son*. Provided below is our schedule for this series that will cover seven weeks.

- Chapter 1 The People Around Jesus August 22
- Chapter 2 The Two Lost Sons September 5
- Chapter 3 Redefining Sin September 19
- Chapter 4 Redefining Lostness October 3
- Chapter 5 The True Elder Brother October 17
- Chapter 6 Redefining Hope November 14
- **Chapter 7 The Feast of the Father December 5**

Questions

1. Re-read Luke 15:1-2, 11-32. What thoughts come to when you think about the recent Thanksgiving "feast" in which we all recently celebrated? Think also of past holidays and the role meals played in the celebrations.
2. The title of Chapter 7 is "The Feast of the Father." Unfortunately, I'm afraid most people do not have a healthy view of God, which impacts how they view Him, others, and even the Church. If every person understood and truly believed a feast awaited them for returning to the Father, do you believe we'd see a greater level of repentance and desire to follow Jesus?
3. Martin Luther stated that "religion" is the default mode of the human heart (page 128). Do you agree with him and in what ways can "religion" be an obstacle for those truly seeking to find Jesus?
4. Read the quote below from page 136 of the young woman who discovered grace and described it as "good scary." Have you experienced times in your life when God called you to do some for which you resisted or struggled against?

If I were saved by my good works – then there would be a limit to what God could ask of me or put me through. I would be like a taxpayer with rights. I would have done my duty and now I would deserve a certain quality of life. But if it is really true that I am a sinner saved by sheer grace – then there's nothing He cannot ask of me.

5. A wonderful story on the importance of community and relationships is captured in Tim's story about C. S. Lewis and his thoughts on the passing of his friend, Charles Williams, contained in his essay, *Friendship* (read on pages 141 and 142). Have you ever been part of a group of Christian men where your relationships with one another enhanced your relationships with each other? If yes, describe what it was like.

6. On page 143, Tim states, "Only if you are part of a community of Believers seeking to resemble, serve , and love Jesus will you ever get to know Him and grow into His likeness." Do you agree with this statement? If yes, is there a time you have experienced this in your life?

7. How can we apply insights from tonight's lesson to be more like Jesus in our own lives? Think in terms of God being the "ultimate father" and the feast He is prepared for those who follow Him.

8. Our last question! As a result of reading *The Prodigal God* how has your view of God changed or been enhanced?