



Heart for the One

Seeking after those whom God seeks

HEART FOR THE ONE: THE ONE

If you're following along with the ministry of Jesus, He spoke of seeking — searching for with all your might and with urgency — only two things. He tells His followers to seek first the Kingdom of God [Matthew 6:33] which feels like a given since people are wanting to participate in the good and powerful rule and reign of a good and powerful God, but the only other thing that Jesus says to seek in the same manner is ...

The One.

And according to His series of parables [Luke 15] describing this seeking of the one, or the lost one, Jesus describes the One as those who are

1. far from the one who deems their great worth and value (the woman searching for her valuable one lost coin, the shepherd searching for his valuable one lost sheep, and the father searching for his valuable one lost son).
2. have the potential to recognize how far from home they are (the lost son makes his way home).
3. worth leaving the larger group at hand in order to search for (the shepherd leaves the ninety nine sheep to look for the one lost sheep)..

Jesus starts off his series on the One when a group of religious leaders and law keepers accuse him of doing something wrong by dining with a group of "sinners" - those whom the society at hand valued as "not good" or "not right" or "not worthy." Jesus' response is that the people who are well are not in need of a physician but those who recognize that there might be something wrong. He places an immense value on people's growing recognition of how far from home they are. He places immense value in moving towards those who are lost, which requires moving away from those who already recognize their connection with God, and He does so in normal-part-of-ordinary-life kinds of ways, like eating with them and spending intentional time with them. The religious leaders' shock was found not in the fact that Jesus was spending time with folks who are in need, but that Jesus chose NOT to spend time with them. And then Jesus invites them to capture what God's heart is like for people through these parables.

Read Luke 15:11-32

In our pursuit to have a heart for the One, instead of focusing on the younger brother, it's worth comparing the heart of the father and the older brother.

Whose heart do you resonate with most — the Father's heart for the One or the older brother's heart for the One?

Heart of the Father	Heart of the older brother
patiently waits	naturally-minded normal response of frustration
is on the look out for return	jealous
does not participate in shaming or correcting first	dutiful but seeking recognition
celebrates makes a really big deal	performance oriented
constantly inviting and welcoming both older and younger sons	servant/soldier > son/relationship to the Father
makes room for mistakes and freedom of choice	fairness > grace
doesn't stop hoping or searching or waiting	tit for tat
convinces of his love for the One at the expense of his own dignity or reputation	pity party entitled/selfish
doesn't express his relationship with the One based on what he deserves/his merit	Not able to ask/don't know how to ask don't know my accessibility to the Father
invites the whole household to celebrate	makes excuses and accusations
	blaming the Father
	no relation to younger brother
	selfish
	other?

Whose heart we begin to adopt really determines the way in which we engage with others around us. Now, it's one thing to be able to identify that there's a difference between the heart of the Father and the heart of the older brother, and even that there's a desire to have more of the heart for the One instead of being against others. But, how do we turn the One from a character in a story to the Ones in our own real contexts? Who are the One and where are they?

Porches, Pathways, Pivots¹



Once we connect with the heart of the Father for the One, then we discover that the Father's heart extends out to the One in our day to day. Who are the One we interact with in our homes and neighborhoods (apartments, condominiums, street, etc)? Who are the One we encounter in our regular pathways and commutes (regular walks, taking our dogs out, runs, grocery stops, elevators, etc)? Who are the One we see in our pivots or places of gatherings (school, office, gym, cafe, sports league, parks, mall, breweries, etc)?

Whose names would you put in each category and begin to ask the Father for His heart for the One in your day to day?

PORCH	PATHWAY	PIVOT

¹ derived from *The Church of Movement* JR Woodward, Dan White Jr.