

This is Us: Radical Grace

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Father Who Runs

Luke 15:11–24 (NIV)

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”

Devotion

The father in Jesus’ parable breaks all cultural expectations by running to his wayward son. Older men didn’t run—it was undignified. But love doesn’t care about dignity. God’s grace isn’t passive, waiting for us to crawl back in shame. It actively pursues us, covering the distance we cannot travel alone. The son rehearsed his speech for days, but the father interrupted with celebration. Your carefully crafted apologies, your promises to do better—God hears them, but His response is always bigger than your words. He doesn’t want your performance; He wants your presence. Today, stop rehearsing and start receiving. Grace is already running toward you.

Day 2: Coming to Yourself

Luke 15:14–19 (NIV)

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’”

Devotion

“When he came to his senses” literally means “when he came to himself.” Rock bottom wasn’t just about external circumstances—it was about internal recognition. The prodigal realized his true identity wasn’t found in distant countries or wild living, but in relationship with his father. Sometimes we need to lose ourselves to find ourselves. We chase abundance everywhere except the one place it’s freely given. The pods that pigs ate looked better than admitting he belonged home. Pride keeps us starving when provision waits. What false identity are you clinging to? Coming to yourself means remembering whose you are. Your father’s house has always had room for you.

Day 3: The Older Brother’s Burden

Luke 15:25–32 (NIV)

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Devotion

The older brother worked faithfully, never straying, always obedient—yet he missed the party. Proximity to grace doesn’t guarantee experiencing it. You can live in the vineyard and still feel distant from the father’s heart. Resentment builds when we serve from duty rather than delight, when we compare our faithfulness to others’ failures. The tragedy isn’t that he stayed home; it’s that he never understood he was already celebrating. “Everything I have is yours,” the father says. Grace isn’t earned through perfect attendance. The older brother’s inheritance was never in question—only his joy. Are you working for approval you already have? Step inside. The music is for you too.

Day 4: Brothers Who Need Each Other

Genesis 33:1–11 (NIV)

Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two female servants. He put the female servants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear. He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.

But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. “Who are these with you?” he asked.

Jacob answered, “They are the children God has graciously given your servant.”

Then the female servants and their children approached and bowed down. Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down. Last of all came Joseph and Rachel, and they too bowed down.

Esau asked, “What’s the meaning of all these flocks and herds I met?”

“To find favor in your eyes, my lord,” he said.

But Esau said, “I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself.”

“No, please!” said Jacob. “If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need.” And because Jacob insisted, Esau accepted it.

Devotion

Jacob and Esau’s reunion reveals what Jesus hoped for in the prodigal story—brothers embracing across brokenness. Esau ran to Jacob, kissed him, and they wept together. The one wronged became the one who offered grace. Jesus leaves the prodigal story unfinished, inviting us to write the ending. Will the older brother go inside? Will reconciliation happen? God’s grace is constant, but human reconciliation requires our participation. We need each other—the wanderers and the faithful, the broken and the bitter. The church isn’t a museum for perfect people but a hospital where wounded healers bind each other’s wounds. Who needs you to run toward them today?

Day 5: Living in Abundance

John 10:7–10 (NIV)

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Devotion

The father's vineyard produced abundance continuously—like Eden, like Jesus' promise of life "to the full." Yet both sons struggled to receive it. One sought abundance elsewhere; the other worked beside it without celebration. God's generosity isn't rationed or earned. The fatted calf was always there, waiting for the right moment. Grace isn't scarce—we are resistant. We harden our hearts, double down on mistakes, or resent others' blessings. Jesus came that we might have abundant life, not someday, but now. Not after we prove ourselves worthy, but because the Father delights in giving. What would change if you believed abundance was already yours? Stop striving. Start celebrating.