



## The Testimony of Timothy J. Keller

Luke 15:11-32

October 29, 2023

Pastor Casey Ehlers

### Introduction

On Reformation Sunday, we celebrate the church's testimony and reflect on a key theme: *hospitality*.

**The life of Tim Keller reminds us that gracious hospitality is expected in the life of the believer.**

- The Testimony of Timothy J. Keller (September 23, 1952 – May 19, 2023)

Statistics about New York City and Redeemer Church

- a. Evangelicals living in New York (1989): 9,000
  - b. Evangelicals living in New York (2019): 80,000
  - c. Redeemer Attendance, Summer 2001: 2,800
  - d. Redeemer Attendance, September 16, 2001: 5,600
  - e. Redeemer Churches planted, as of 2021: 748
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- The surprising purpose of the Prodigal Son parable (vv. 31-32).
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- Christians ought to have a posture of radical, grace-filled hospitality toward all peoples.
    - a. Towards one another → a spirit of ecumenicalism (love one another)
    - b. Towards non-Christians → a spirit of hospitality (love your neighbor)

### Response:

Lord, help us as a church, Hope Church, live up to our name, and be a people of hope to the world around us.

## **Sunday Text Questions**

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- 1) Starter Question: Do you have non-Christian friends? If so, how do you navigate differences in views or opinions about the world around you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What stood out to you the most about the life and ministry of Timothy J. Keller?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) How does Timothy J. Keller's ministry (character) challenge the cultural practices of our tribal, territorial age? (secular and Christian expressions)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Read Luke 15:11-32. Discuss any questions or observations you have about the text. (also, Luke 15:1-2)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Do you have an ecumenical, hospitable spirit? What would it look like in your life to grow as a person of hope?

**Further study this week:** (Texts about hospitality) Matthew 25:31-40 (Mon); John 15 (Tues); Matthew 5:43-48 (Wed); Romans 12:1-13 (Thurs); Romans 12:14-21 (Fri).