



Series: Embrace Yourself

March 2, 2025

Series Summary:

1. Embrace **Yourself** (Just in case nobody else does)
2. Embrace Yourself and Ask for Help (Sometimes you can't do it alone) ...Luke 15:17
Note: Pastor Rick and Diane Temple (Tag-team)
3. Embrace Yourself and **Understand those You Hurt** (Sometimes you are guilty) **Matthew 5:23-24**
Note: Guest at 9am / Pastor at 11 am
4. Embrace Yourself and **Learn to Be Silent** (Let somebody else speak for you sometime)

Question for the year: How Do You Start Over?

Theme Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

- **2 Corinthians 5:17:** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
- **Isaiah 43:18-19:** "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Text: Luke 15:17-20

I. Embrace Yourself and Do What It Takes

17 "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!** 18 **I will set out and go back to my father** and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 **I am no longer worthy** to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants. '20 So he got up and went to his father.

1. He came to his senses (v17)
2. He admitted he was starving (v17)
3. He went back to his home (v18)
4. He admitted he was wrong (v19, "I am no longer worthy")
5. He was willing to do whatever it took

II. Challenge Yourself and Admit You're Wrong

1. The older brother fairly summarizes where his younger brother went wrong

- 25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’
- 28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘**Look! All these years...**

2. The younger brother left his brother with all his responsibilities (“I have been slaving”)

- **v29 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.

3. The older brother never had a party celebrating his service

- **v30** But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

Conclusion:

III. Forgive Yourself and Embrace God’s Grace and Start Over

31 “My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and **everything I have is yours**. 32 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.”

Next Time: Embrace Yourself and Ask for Help (Sometimes you can’t do it alone)

Read Ahead: Luke 15:17