gospelTALKResurrection Sunday 2020

Many Christians this morning are disappointed because they are unable to celebrate Easter the way they are accustomed to.  Because of the coronavirus, churches around the world are unable to gather together to celebrate the day we call Resurrection Sunday and that really is disappointing. But you know what?  We’re not the only generation of believers to be disappointed and fearful and sheltering-in-place in our homes on Resurrection Sunday.

Remember Jesus’ disciples?!

Listen, they sure weren’t enjoying a festive, encouraging, and powerful Resurrection day church service early on that first Sunday morning after Jesus died on the cross. They were sheltering-in-place, if you will, completely devastated, discouraged, disappointed, and heartbroken by what had happened to Jesus and themselves.  Of course, they were also worried about the future and very much concerned about what would happen to them.

This was the setting of that first early Easter morning in Jerusalem until Jesus showed up . . . ALIVE.  That changed everything as well as everyone in the room forever!  And it is still transforming the lives of everyone and anyone who will simply allow themselves to be surprised by the love and grace of God.

In our sermon today, we will unpack Jesus’ story of the prodigal son, which He told to help us understand that God's capacity and desire to forgive us is greater than our capacity to sin and that whereas our sin is scandalously great, God's grace is scandalously greater still.

This is the good news of the Gospel which is the good news that even though we’re far worse sinners than we ever imagined, we are far more accepted and loved than we ever dared to believe, all because Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose again for sinners like you and me.

Perhaps as you hear the message today from Luke 15:11-24 you’ll find yourself being surprised by grace.  If so, let it change your life forever!

SURPRISED BY GRACE

Luke 15:11-24

Sermon In A Sentence:  “God's capacity and desire to forgive is greater than our capacity to sin and whereas our sin is scandalously great, God's grace is scandalously greater still.”

1. **Scandalous Sins  (Luke 15:12-20A)**
2. **Scandalous Grace and Love  (Luke 15:20B-24)**