



The Newness of Life

Week 1: An opportunity for a new start

Passages Romans 6:4 and Luke 15:11-32

According to **Rom 6:1-10**:

- Why would anyone think that continuing to sin would make grace increase?
- How would we put the question of v1 in our own words?
- What does it mean to be baptized into Christ's death?
- What does "the newness of life" mean?

Luke 15 is a chapter full of good things. After three introductory verses, Luke begins with the story of the lost sheep (15:4–7), which Matthew also relates. Alongside it he places a similar story, that of the lost silver coin (15:8–10), not recorded in any of the other Gospels. To these he adds another story, which is perhaps (along with the story of the good Samaritan) the most familiar and best loved of all the parables of Jesus, is that of the 'prodigal son' (15:11–32). Prodigal the young man was, wasteful and spendthrift with his inheritance; but as we shall see, it is even more to the point to realize his lost-ness, and to think of the three parables as being equally concerned with the finding of what is lost.¹

- Evaluate the different characters in the parable. Would you identify with any of them?
- Why is Jesus telling this story, how would have the pharisees perceived and understood it?
- What did you make of the buddhist story shared on Sunday?
- How is the new start quantified for the younger brother? How about the older one?
- Allowing yourself to experience God's unconditional love for you could be an opportunity for new start... In the light of the Scriptures read, is there any other biblical truth that God has brought to your attention that you would like to reclaim and respond to?

Please allow some considerable time to pray for one another.

¹ Michael Wilcock, [*The Savior of the World: The Message of Luke's Gospel*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1979), 149.