

EASTER LOGO w/email

**Question:**

What do you think God thinks about when God thinks about you?

**I Peter 3:18**

For Christ also **suffered for sins** once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring **you to God**. He was put to **death** in the flesh but made **alive** by the Spirit

**“bring you to God”** □ **with**

**“With”** is a **problem** for God.

**Romans 3:23**

For **all** have sinned and **fall short** of the glory of God.

**Romans 4:25**

He was handed over to die because of our sins, and He was **raised to life** to make us right **with God**.

God’s “with” problem is solved by **Jesus**—His perfect life, substitutionary death, and victorious resurrection.

Now, God can freely & graciously give us an **invitation** to be with Him.

“With” is also a problem **for us** ...

**John 3:19**

And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s Light came into the world, but people **loved** the darkness **more than** the Light ...

Our “WITH” problem is solved when we see **WHO** God is and **HOW MUCH** He wants to be WITH us ... at great **cost** to Himself.

Image of Christ

[https://i.pinimg.com/736x/01/78/a6/0178a64ed2ac68a1cd20093fea826e79--passion-of-t  
he-christ-christian-pictures.jpg](https://i.pinimg.com/736x/01/78/a6/0178a64ed2ac68a1cd20093fea826e79--passion-of-the-christ-christian-pictures.jpg)

**Luke 15:1-2**

All the **tax collectors and sinners** were approaching to listen to Him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats **with** them.”

### **3 Parables:**

- **Lost sheep, Lost coin & Lost son**
- **Effort to be “with” (reunite, restore, reconcile)**
- **3 Parties: celebration of the response**

### **Luke 15:8-10**

“Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and **search carefully** until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘**Rejoice with me**, because I have found the silver coin I lost!’ <sup>10</sup> I tell you, in the same way, there is **joy** in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who **repents**.”

### **Luke 15:11-13**

He also said, “A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, **give me the share of the estate** I have coming to me.’ So he distributed the assets to them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he had and **traveled to a distant country**, where he squandered his estate in foolish living.

**Our “with” problem ... we prefer something other than God.**

**This creates another problem:**

**When we break our connection with God, we end up **attached** to something else (**enslaved**).**

### **Luke 15:14-16**

After he had spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he had **nothing**. <sup>15</sup> Then he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to eat his fill from the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one would give him anything.

### **Luke 15:17-20a**

**When he came to his senses**, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I’ll get up, go to my father, and say to him, “Father, **I have sinned** against heaven and in your sight. <sup>19</sup> I’m **no longer worthy** to be called your son. Make me like one of your **hired workers**.”’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

**Now, we have another “with” problem:**

**When we think about ourselves, we think in terms of **DO, DOING, DONE**.**

### **Luke 15:20**

So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with **compassion**. He **ran**, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him.

### **IMAGE**

**PICTURE of JESUS CRUCIFIED** – Or Find a different/better image ?

<https://www.sightmagazine.com.au/images/Cross.jpg>

### **Luke 15:21**

The son said to him, 'Father, **I have sinned** against heaven and in your sight. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son.'

### **Luke 25:22-24**

"**But** the father told his servants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let's **celebrate** with a feast, <sup>24</sup> because this son of mine was **dead** and is **alive again**; he was lost and is found!' So they began to celebrate.

**They celebrate: "with"**

**The reason for the "with" □ the character & action of the father**

**The response of the son: repentance & reception of grace & mercy**

### **IMAGE**

**Empty tomb; stone rolled away**

[https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-Z54Sy5WCMik/XoahHOd-30I/AAAAAAAAAq3U/67xW8apJnoo6MDFkgdQQ-4xCVn1qW\\_wgwCLcBGAsYHQ/s1600/jesus-christ-empty-tomb-goshen-utah-1574218-print.jpg](https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-Z54Sy5WCMik/XoahHOd-30I/AAAAAAAAAq3U/67xW8apJnoo6MDFkgdQQ-4xCVn1qW_wgwCLcBGAsYHQ/s1600/jesus-christ-empty-tomb-goshen-utah-1574218-print.jpg)

### **Luke 25:25-28a**

"Now his older son was in the field; as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he summoned one of the servants, questioning what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother is here,' he told him, 'and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> "Then he became angry and **didn't want to go in** ...

### **Luke 25:28b-30**

**So** his father came out and **pleaded with him**. <sup>29</sup> But he replied to his father, 'Look, I have been **slaving** many years for you, and I have never disobeyed your orders, yet you never gave me a goat so that I could celebrate **with my friends**. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.'

### **The Older Brother/Son:**

- **Do, Doing, Done** □ I'm a good person
  - “*slaving*” vs. a son
- **Self-righteous, religious sinner** □ religion w/o relationship

### **Luke 25:31-32**

“Son,’ he said to him, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was **dead and is alive again**; he was lost and is found.”

### **The Father’s Desire: to be WITH**

*{one slide; keep formatting}*

**The Common Struggle: For each son to let the father **love** them.**

- **In the pig sty**
- **On the front porch**

*{one slide; keep formatting}*

**God loves us no matter what **we’ve done** and not **because** of what we’ve done.**

**Q: What do you think God thinks about when God thinks about you?**

**A: With**

*{put Scripture and “with□who” on the same slide; split screen*

### **WITH □ WHO**

#### **Revelation 1:8**

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “the One who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

### **WITH □ HOW MUCH**

*\*\*Include on this slide (split screen) the image of Christ on the Cross*

### **WITH ... □ INVITATION**

*\*\*Include on this slide (split screen), the image of the EMPTY TOMB/OPEN*

#### **A) Repent & Receive**

□ **Illustration: Baptism**

#### **B) Make “with” #1 □ Priority**

**INCLUDE NEXT STEPS TEXT # ... perhaps same slide as A & B above**