



Read Luke 15:11-32

The prodigal son returned to the open arms of his father. Even though the son had left his father's house, wasted half of his father's money, and worried his mother and father to death, when he returned home he was invited back into the full membership of his family—no questions asked—with a party.

The prodigal son's older brother was not as pleased to see his brother. The older brother did not want his brother to be invited back into the family. The older brother had been loyal. The prodigal son had not. Why should he get a second chance at being a family member?

If we are honest—really honest—we understand the feelings of the older brother.

Today as you fast, pray, listen, and respond, ask God to help you really look at that part of your life that is like the older brother. Ask God to help you let go of those feelings so that you can rejoice when the lost are found, the blind see, the addicted are in recovery, and the dead are once again alive!

Ask God to help you put judgements to the side and to see each person you meet as a child of God. Maybe they know they are, maybe they don't. If we begin to treat each person as a brother and sister, who are loved by God just as much as we are, maybe they will experience the love of Christ we are supposed to be offering them.

It is not enough to open our church doors and hope the lost will come in (or as the older brother, hope they won't come in). We must leave our sanctuaries and find the lost, hurting and recovering.

WEEK 7 / DEVOTION



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Narcan

We have all read in the newspapers about Narcan (Naloxone). Narcan has saved thousands of lives when administered to overdosing persons by first responders or laypersons. Narcan is a drug that blocks the effects of opioids on the nervous system. When Narcan is administered in a timely manner, it can bring an unconscious person back to full consciousness almost immediately.

Narcan comes in several forms. It can be administered intravenously, it can be injected into a muscle (an auto injector), or it can be sprayed into the nostrils. Laypersons can be trained to use the muscle injector or spray forms by their local health departments. Many families of addicted persons keep Narcan with them just in case their loved one overdoses. Many public places have Narcan available just like heart defibrillators are now commonly seen.

When an overdosing person is revived by Narcan they will also immediately start suffering from withdrawal symptoms (dope sick). Many times, first responders have to fight with a revived overdose victim because they are angry at “losing their high” and feeling dope sick, even though their life has been saved.

Narcan is a fast-acting drug—which is a good thing—but it also has a short life span in the body, which is not such a good thing. Opioids stay in the body longer than Narcan, so when the blocking effect of Narcan wears off, a person can overdose again simply because there was more opioid in the body. There is also the possibility of the revived person using opioids again while the blocking effect of Narcan is still working, which can certainly cause a second overdose when the Narcan wears off. Because of this, it is very important that a revived overdose victim be admitted into a hospital for observation.



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