

Reckless Part 5
Running, Working or Resting

Mark 6:1-5 (NKJV) *Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. ² And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! ³ Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. ⁴ But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." ⁵ Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.*

**Is there a chance that what we know of God, how we see Him, is not who He is at all?
Is there a chance that Jesus has marveled at our unbelief?**

Luke 15:11-24 (NKJV)

¹¹ Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. ¹³ And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. ¹⁴ But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' ²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

Why did the younger son leave?

- He thought he had to leave to find what he needed.

We know the father **was** more than willing to provide whatever the son needed.

- *The problem*—he didn't have a close enough relationship with his father to know it.
- He ran away from home, **running from** his father trying to "find himself."

Luke 15:25-32 (NKJV) *"Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' ²⁸ "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many*

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years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.³⁰ But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.³¹ “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.³² It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ ”

How does the older brother miss what’s happening?

- He was responsible, mature, always working, always serious, always stressing.
 - His identity was found in his work, in his perfection, in his abilities.

We know he didn’t have to work, strive and stress and be perfect to earn the acceptance of his father.

- *The problem*—he didn’t have a close enough relationship with his father to know that.
- He stayed at home, **working for** his father trying to define himself.

The brother who ran and the brother who stayed had this in common:

- They were both living their lives based on a wrong perception of their father.
- **Because they didn’t know the father’s heart; they were missing out on the father’s love.**

You are either running from, working for or resting in the Father’s love for you.

Hebrews 4:1 (NKJV) Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

Psalm 95:8-11(NKJV) “Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As *in* the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. ¹⁰For forty years I was grieved with *that* generation, And said, ‘It *is* a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.’ ¹¹So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’”

Your unwillingness to let God be good to you grieves Him!

- **If you aren’t resting in God’s grace, you are resisting God’s grace.**

Hebrews 4:2 (NKJV) For indeed the **gospel** was preached to us as well as to them, but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.

Numbers 21:5 (NKJV) “the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?” They could never believe that God was on their side.

Are you running, working or resting in your relationship with Jesus?

- You will never experience the fullness of God’s love for you unless you are willing to accept the fullness of God’s love for you.

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Grace has everything to do with God's desire to help you.

This is why He came – this is why Jesus died—To HELP YOU!