

I'm in.

THE DIFFERENCE WE CAN MAKE
Part 6 • November 4-5, 2017 • #ImInHeartland

If the seats could talk, what would they tell us? There is a story in every seat: A story about a son or daughter, a brother or sister, mom or dad; a stories of loss, anxiety, conflict, financial strain, or disappointment with God and church. This is just a part of being human. But at Heartland Church, everyone is welcome and anything is possible. Every week those who are lost are being found, healed, restored, and redeemed. When a person has a real encounter with Jesus, everything changes.

Every life really means something to someone, and everything to God. In Luke 15, Jesus describes the heart of God through a story about a lost sheep, a lost coin and a lost son. In each of these stories, whatever is lost really matters to someone. The lost sheep matters to the shepherd. The lost coin matters to the woman. The lost son matters to the father. The thought of losing someone for all eternity should fill us all with a profound sense of urgency to reach those we care about who are far from God.

So many feel unworthy of the father's love because of past sin or the life choices they've made. But the Father is running towards the one who is lost. There is nothing in all the world that matters more to God than a lost son or daughter finding their way back to him. When that happens all of heaven rejoices.

This is WHY Heartland Church exists! Every number has a name. Every name has a story. Every story matters to God.

Talk About It

1. If you are one of those people who came to Heartland, "*kicking and screaming, dragging your heels across the parking lot*," would you consider sharing your story? What is the difference this church has made in your life?
2. Read Luke 15:1-24. This is a key story that Jesus told to show people what the heart of God is like. This is a key passage that guides our church. How does this picture of the father in the story affect you?
3. This past weekend, we heard the stories of people who are still far from God. Then, thousands of real names, each one with a real family and a real story, were scrolled across our screens. How did that affect you to see so many people who are loved by someone, but lost and far from God? What should we do about it?
4. We have come to know Jesus and experience his love through our church because someone else sacrificed and made it possible for a seat to be there for us. Ponder this, with a heart of gratitude. What difference has their sacrifice made?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. Who is called to respond to the need? What is does the heart of the responder look like and why? Then have someone read Luke 6:38. What does Jesus tell us to do and what does he say will happen? Do you believe this?

Pray About It

Do you consider yourself to be a part of Heartland Church? It's going to take all of us at some level. No one is being asked to give what they don't have. But if we are followers of Jesus, there will be times when we will all be called to sacrifice for the sake of others. Will we do for someone else what has been done for us? So we pray, "Lord, What would you have me do?"

He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. (2 Corinthians 5:15)

Act On It

Say, "I'm In!" You can get involved now by filling out a commitment card and returning it to the church, or fill out the online card at heartlandchurch.com/get-involved.

What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now. (Matthew 6:31-34, MSG)



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