



# Grow – Pray - Study

Hastings United Methodist Church



Adventure By The Park  
March 15<sup>th</sup> Luke 7:36-50

## The Gospel of the Nobodies “ Prostitutes and Prodigals”

Day	Read	Theme
MONDAY 3.16.15	Luke 12:1-34	From the inside out
TUESDAY 3.17.15	Luke 12:35-13:9	Serving wisely and well
WEDNESDAY 3.18.15	Luke 13:10-35	Healing, and hearts that refuse it
THURSDAY 3.19.15	Luke 14:1-35	God’s great (and costly) banquet
FRIDAY 3.20.15	Luke 15:1-32	This man welcomes sinners – and celebrates it!
SATURDAY 3.21.15	Luke 16:1-31	Shrewd swindler, foolish rich man

**Monday** – In Luke 12, tension between the status quo and God’s kingdom was building. Jesus did two main things: 1) warned his disciples about enemies, and 2) reminded them that God knows and cares about every part of our lives. He challenged his followers, then and now, to avoid a casual, half - hearted faith. How wholehearted is your faith? What does it look like in your life today to follow Jesus whole - heartedly and passionately?

**Tuesday** – Jesus’ words about bringing division rather than peace (12:51-53) may strike us as odd. Isn’t Jesus “the prince of peace”? Yes — but his kingdom’s principles (including peace) were so unlike the worlds that he knew at times division would follow. Have family members, friends or co - workers ever misunderstood or criticized choices you’ve made based on your loyalty to God?

**Wednesday** – Someone asked a theoretical question: ““Lord, will only a few be saved?” (verse 23) Jesus’ answer was completely personal. The Message rendered it as “Whether few or many is none of your business. Put your mind on your life with God. The way to life—to God! — is vigorous and requires your total attention.” Are you ever tempted to let abstract religious questions distract you from a focus on your own relationship with God? What spiritual practices most help you keep things personal with God?

**Thursday** – Jesus at times used extreme words to focus his hearers on priorities. “Hate” (verse 26) didn’t always mean active malice; it could be a Middle Eastern way to describe making something less central to your life. It can be a challenging spiritual exercise to ask in prayer, “Lord, are there any things, people or dreams I love more than you?” If you do this, make sure you’re willing to shift priorities to honor any insights you get.

**Friday** – The Pharisees labeled people “good” or “bad,” and saw “bad people” as unlikely to change. Jesus saw people much more as “lost” (like the sheep, coin or boy), and what’s lost can be found. When have you lost your way spiritually and needed finding? Jesus pictured God rejoicing each time a heart responds to God’s love. Whose model has most helped you see God as more eager to find a lost person than to punish a bad person?

**Saturday** – Jesus again said no one can serve two masters, that it is impossible to serve both God and wealth (verse 13). Which master has your deepest allegiance? His second story used popular ideas about heaven and Hades to say more about values. In verses 27-31, Jesus said Moses and the prophets could show the rich man’s brothers (and the Pharisees) a better way. What influences have helped you to build your values (social, financial and spiritual) on the teachings of Moses and the prophets—and Jesus?

March 22<sup>nd</sup> Luke 18:35-43 The Gospel of the Nobodies “The Homeless Beggar”