

Sharing Your Faith

Enter In

Very often people sum up their outlook on life in a catch phrase or by analogy. “Live and Let Live.” “Don’t count your chickens until they hatch.” The Golden Rule. “Life is a rollercoaster.” It’s often said that what is really important to us (not just in thought) is what we display in our actions. Take a few minutes and examine your actions. What motivates them?

The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like This

Bono, the lead singer for U2 talks about the powerful effect the Cross and Jesus’ death had on our world. He speaks of the heart of the Gospel in such everyday terms.

“You see, at the center of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, or in physics—in physical laws—every action is met by an equal or an opposite one. It’s clear to me that Karma is at the very heart of the universe. I’m absolutely sure of it. And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that ‘as you reap, so you will sow’ stuff.

Grace defies reason and logic. Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I’ve done a lot of stupid stuff.”

As I read Bono’s thoughts, the parable of the Prodigal Son came to mind. In the story, the father goes to extreme lengths to overturn the “reap as you sow” mentality instilled in the Jews of the time. Take a few minutes to read through Luke 15:11-32 and really get into the story. Put yourself in the Prodigal’s shoes. What emotions and thoughts are running through your head? Also put yourself in the shoes of the other son. What emotions or thoughts come to you and why? How often do we as Christians reflect the attitude of the other son who does everything right? How do you think the world would react to a Christianity known for this instead of known for hypocrisy and a judgmental spirit?

As You Go

Ask yourself what it would mean to have a heart like the father in the parable. How would you reach out to those around you who don’t yet know Jesus’ love? What words would characterize a conversation with an unbelieving friend?

