



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 097 - Changing Your Focus

The Jews were completely changed by their traumatizing captivity and exile in Babylon. Similarly, our outlook on life and our viewpoint can be completely changed by the difficult and devastating experiences in our lives.

- What situations have you encountered which completely changed your thinking and viewpoint?
- How did you wrap your mind around what you were experiencing?
- How were you changed by your experiences?

In many of these situations we reach false conclusions. That's exactly what Judah did, concluding it went into exile because the people broke God's rules. After returning from exile, they based their whole religion on keeping God's rules, but failed to know God and the relationship He was calling them to have with Him. Sometimes after our disasters we move forward in life basing our words, thoughts and actions on our own false conclusions.

- What false conclusions have you reached as a result of difficult times in your life?
- How did they affect your relationships?
- How did you come to see they were false?

Jesus told the Parable of the Prodigal Son to show the Pharisees how their preoccupation with rules was keeping them from knowing God as He really is. They were the older brother in the parable who was so caught up in doing what his father wanted, that he never stopped to get to *know* his father. Read the father's discussion with the prodigal son's older brother in Luke 15:25-32.

- Thinking of the Jewish preoccupation with following rules rather than building a real relationship with God, why do you think the older brother got so upset with his father?
- When do you find your walk of faith being more like that of the older brother than the repentant prodigal son?
- Why is it important to keep reminding ourselves that the purpose of God's Law isn't to show us how to keep from getting into trouble, but to expose our failings and show us why we need Jesus to be our Savior?