



# *Divine Embrace*

Luke 15:1-32



# Context

Jesus is defending his ministry against the “mutterers”—the critics of his ministry.

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Jesus is defending his ministry against the “mutterers”—the critics of his ministry.

“There is joy in heaven among the angels of God when one tax collector is dropped into hell.”

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# Context

Jesus is defending his ministry against the “mutterers”—the critics of his ministry.

“There is joy in heaven among the angels of God when one tax collector is dropped into hell.”

In Christ, we have God explaining God—God telling us what God is like.

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# Human Folly

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# Human Folly

A sheep wanders away from the fold and gets lost—  
the case of spiritual drifting.

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# Human Folly

A sheep wanders away from the fold and gets lost—  
the case of spiritual drifting.

A coin falls off a woman's necklace and gets lost—  
the case of spiritual disorientation.

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# Human Folly

A sheep wanders away from the fold and gets lost—  
the case of spiritual drifting.

A coin falls off a woman's necklace and gets lost—  
the case of spiritual disorientation.

A son rejects his father, leaves home, and gets lost—  
the case of spiritual defiance.

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Undiminished Value

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# Undiminished Value

The shepherd still treasures the lost sheep because it belongs to him.

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# Undiminished Value

The shepherd still treasures the lost sheep because it belongs to him.

The woman still treasures the lost coin because it belongs to her.

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# Undiminished Value

The shepherd still treasures the lost sheep because it belongs to him.

The woman still treasures the lost coin because it belongs to her.

The father still treasures the lost son because he belongs to him.

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# Costly Pursuit

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# Costly Pursuit

The shepherd enters into the sheep's lostness in order to find it.

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# Costly Pursuit

The shepherd enters into the sheep's lostness in order to find it.

The woman gets dirty looking for the coin in order to restore it.

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# Costly Pursuit

The shepherd enters into the sheep's lostness in order to find it.

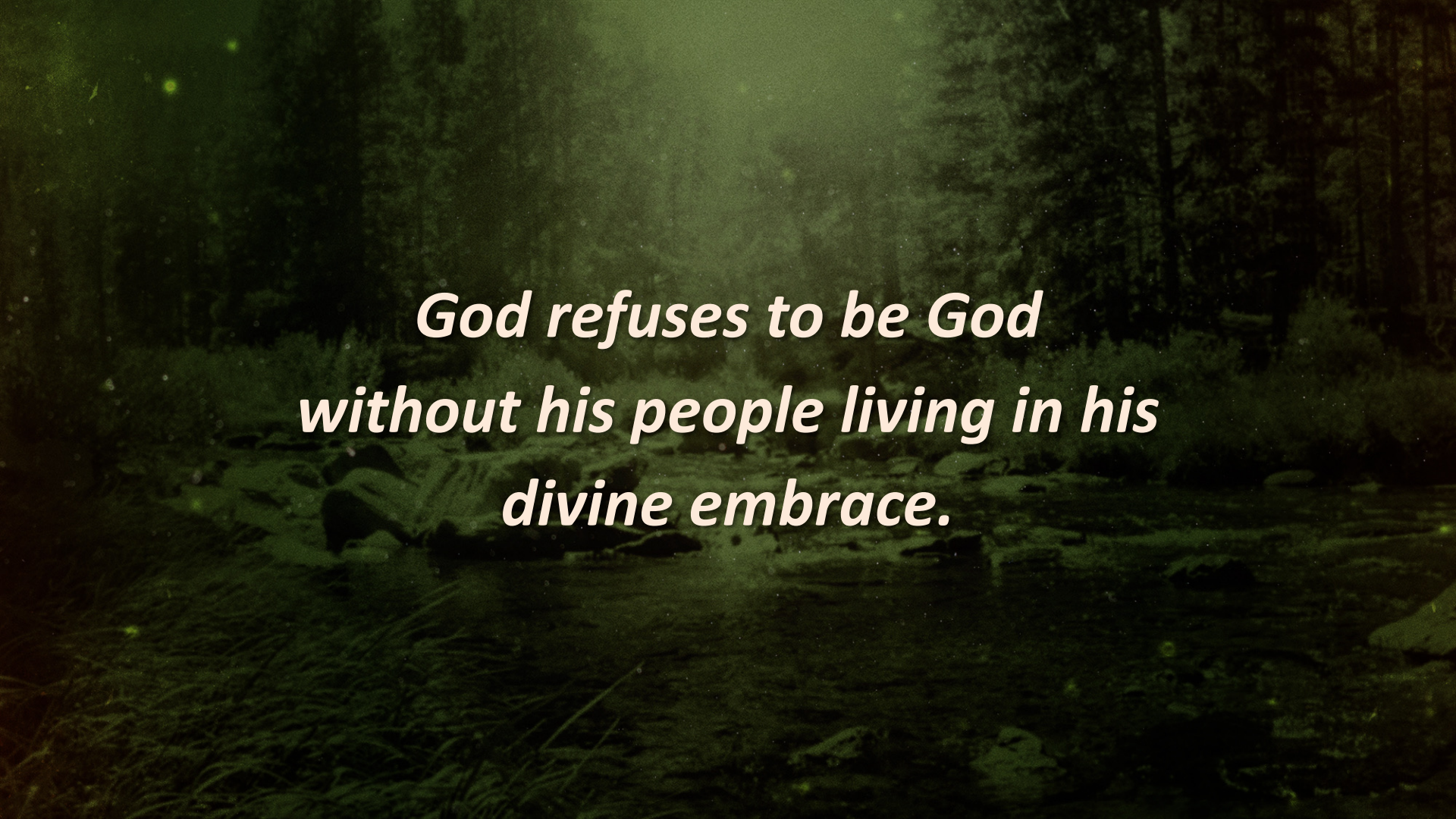
The woman gets dirty looking for the coin in order to restore it.

The father takes his son's shame to himself in order to cover it.

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A dark, moody forest scene with a path leading through trees and undergrowth. The lighting is low, creating a sense of mystery and depth. The text is centered and reads: 

*God refuses to be God  
without his people living in his  
divine embrace.*



Heaven's Joy

*Divine Embrace*

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# Heaven's Joy

The shepherd finds the lost sheep, puts it around his neck, and calls others to rejoice with him.

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# Heaven's Joy

The shepherd finds the lost sheep, puts it around his neck, and calls others to rejoice with him.

The woman finds the lost coin, (presumably) puts it around her neck, and calls others to rejoice with her.

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# Heaven's Joy

The shepherd finds the lost sheep, puts it around his neck, and calls others to rejoice with him.

The woman finds the lost coin, (presumably) puts it around her neck, and calls others to rejoice with her.

The father finds his lost son, falls on his neck with kisses, and calls others to rejoice with him.

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# Our Response

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# Our Response

Renounce the *drifting* you have done, and  
accept the *restoration* God has for you in Christ.

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# Our Response

Renounce the *drifting* you have done, and accept the *restoration* God has for you in Christ.

Renounce the *dirt* you have been playing in, and accept the *cleansing* God has for you in Christ.

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# Our Response

Renounce the *drifting* you have done, and accept the *restoration* God has for you in Christ.

Renounce the *dirt* you have been playing in, and accept the *cleansing* God has for you in Christ.

Renounce the *defiance* you have expressed, and accept the *embrace* God has for you in Christ.

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Give Thanks

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# Give Thanks

Come to the Table, and visibly accept your acceptance.

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# Give Thanks

Come to the Table, and visibly accept your acceptance.

Joyfully make room for others at the Table—those who are likewise loved and graced by God.

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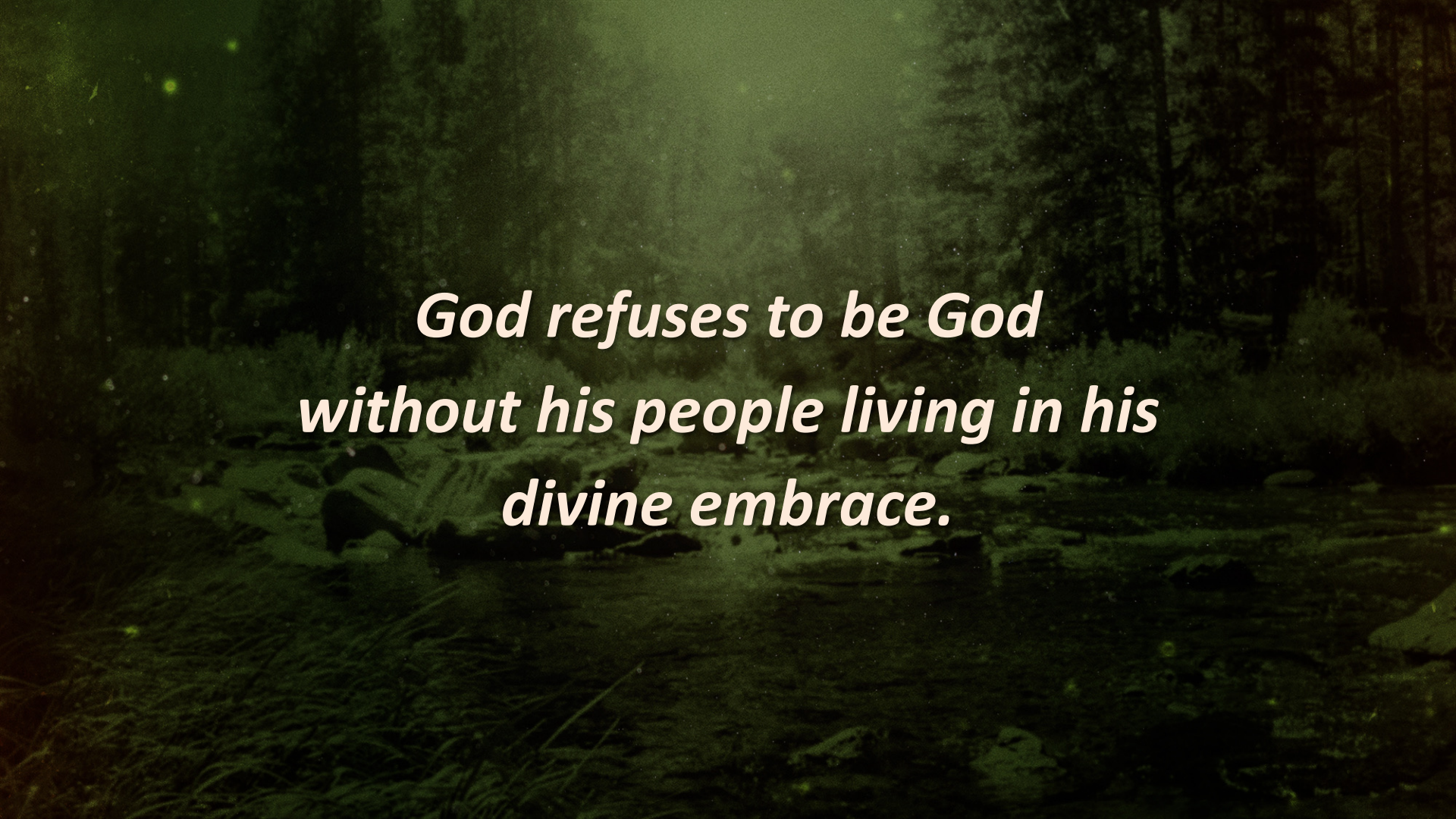
Joyfully make room for others at the Table—those who are likewise loved and graced by God.

Remember that it's not a fattened calf that has been killed for your return, but the Son of God himself.

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A dark, moody forest scene with a path leading through trees and undergrowth. The lighting is low, creating a sense of mystery and depth. The text is centered and written in a white, serif font.

*God refuses to be God  
without his people living in his  
divine embrace.*





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