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## ***Chapter Two: Something Of Value Is Lost***

Stone hearts and sand hearts make lists. Lists discriminate. Stone hearts discriminate with prejudice from the top down. Sand hearts discriminate with jealousy from the bottom up. Both compare and label: two characteristics of failed self-restoration programs.

This was as true two thousand years ago as it is today. Luke's backdrop of the trilogy of stories gives insight to the list-making culture by his inclusion of quotes around the word "sinners": "Now the tax collectors and 'sinners' were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them'" (Luke 15:1-2).

However, Jesus painted a picture of the heart of the father—a heart without lists. The story that He was about to share was a trilogy that would reveal how lists and rules could never be enough for anyone to live restored to authenticity. He was about to show them the common thread of three strands: (1) something of value was locked outside its gate; (2) the lost treasure warranted an all-out search on Restoration Road; and (3) the destination was life-giving restoration that called for celebration.

### ***Navigating Restoration Road***

Do you see your connection with the father and others as loose?

Are you put-off by people who are religious?

Have you pursued security apart from God, finding yourself insecure?

Have you searched for contentment apart from God, leaving you discontent?

Have you sought significance apart from God, only to find insignificance?



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Have you wrestled for control apart from God in a way that your life has spun out of control?

Describe a time when you compared yourself to others whom you saw as less deserving than you. How did it make you feel?

Do you ever see yourself as a slave and God as your taskmaster? If so, describe one example of this.

Do you attempt to control God with mechanical obedience? If so, explain the context.

Do you see life's outcomes as a result of your obedience or disobedience? Explain why or why not.

Describe a time when you celebrated with God.

Do you find yourself wanting more from God than He has given you? Why or why not?