



Part #2: The Problem.

Introduction:

If you are going to restart your faith journey, or even begin it for the first time, there is one issue that you will have to face at some stage. It's not just unavoidable, but unpopular & uncomfortable to talk about. It's the "s" word... "sin". We almost always associate this word with God stuff, rarely anywhere else. And we don't like talking about it, often because it sounds and feels so condemning and so final. So we use other words to describe it.

Jesus, however, sees sin in a whole different light to what we do. He is not put off by our sin at all... he sees it as a path to restoration of all our relationships. His view is gracious & freeing.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Why are we uncomfortable with talking about sin... especially our own?
2. When you hear the word 'sin', what is your reaction to it? What do you think about it? How does it make you feel?
3. What did you think about when replacing the word "mistake" with "sin"? How has this changed how you think about things in this world, and things in your own life that you'd like to call 'mistakes'?
4. In reading Luke 15:22-32 what is your reaction to the Father's response to his son, and the son's response to the Father? How does this challenge how you see God & yourself?
5. It's easier to see 'sin' in someone else or the world at large. But what about yourself? Is it offensive for you to consider that you are a sinner? Why?

Next Step...

To restart your faith, wrestling with sin is not an option. Jesus is not upset with you over sin – he covered it already. He simply wants restoration or relationship that sin has broken. What is your next step... if any... to restore that relationship, or begin one with Jesus?

Reflect on this amazing truth: *"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins."* (Romans 3:23–24 NLT)