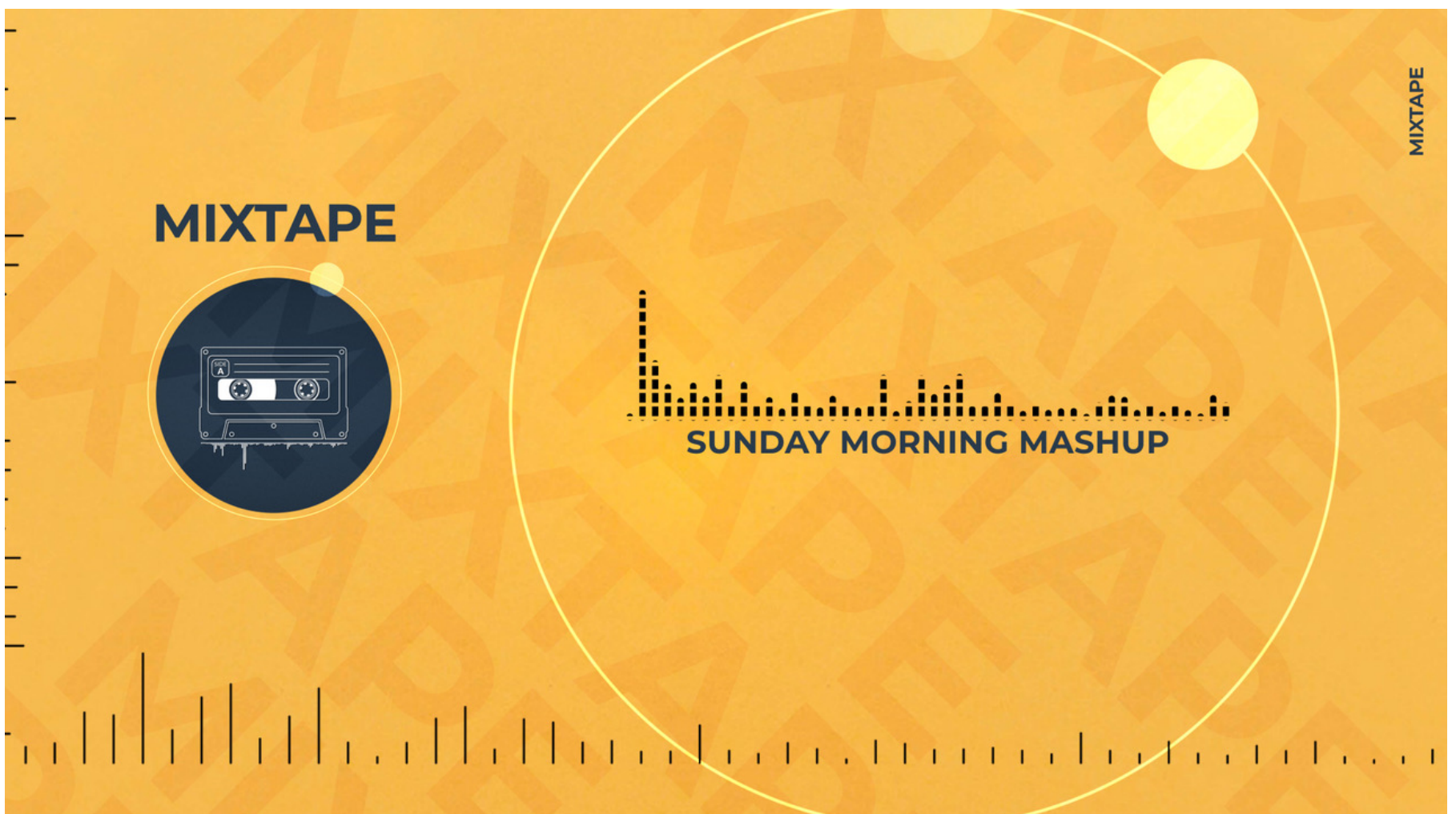


May 30, 2021

NORTH METRO CHURCH

NMC SERMON SERIES CONTENT



“Mix Tape” SERIES OVERVIEW:

Back in the day, if you wanted to put together a playlist of some of your favorite songs and favorite artists that you could listen to by the pool, on the way to the beach, or during a summer road trip, you would make a mixtape.

It's not an album with a main idea. It's a collection of great songs by great artists that you love and enjoy.

We're doing the same thing this summer with our three-week teaching series, Mixtape.

Each Sunday, we'll hear from a new teacher, bringing one of their favorite sermons, to contribute to Mixtape; all compiled to communicate biblical truths and helpful applications.

"MIX TAPE"

WEEK 1



Discussion Questions:

Read Luke 15:11-32.

Place yourself in the father's shoes; what are you feeling when your son essentially tells you to drop dead?

What do you think the audience's response would be to the son's statement? What would your response have been to a son who left your home in such a way and then tried to come back all in one day? How about a friend?

In the culture of Jesus' day, much of the wealth of people was found in their land, cattle, etc. When the son left his family, he likely had to sell his father's land. As a result, the consequence of his actions was felt by his family daily. Why do you think the father would give his son the inheritance? What does this reveal to us about God?

What happens once he has spent all that he has? What does the son realize when the famine hits? When do we normally realize our need for God?

When the son finally comes to his senses and returns to his father, the story says that the father saw him from a distance and started to run towards him. (In that culture it was a shameful act for men to run.) What does this say about the love that the father had for the son?

What do you think the son is thinking when he sees his father running towards him? How was the reception he received from the father different than what he expected?

Talk about a time when you have wandered away from the Lord. What was it that brought you back to Him? What did you find when you came back to God?

Reread Luke 15:20-21. What comes first—confession or the father's love? It has been said we do not change our lives to be forgiven; we change our lives because we are forgiven. How should this influence us in our relationships with others?

Think about people who, like the son, are far away. What are some reasons that would keep them from coming home to Jesus? How might the outcome be influenced if we extend a hand of forgiveness (see Luke 15:20-24, 32), instead of a finger of judgment (see Luke 15:28-30)?

Read Philippians 2:5-11. Compare this passage with Luke 15:20-24. What things are similar in what God has done and what the Father did?

None of us deserve God's grace, and yet if we are one of His children that is exactly what He gives us – grace. Can you describe a time when you experienced the Father's grace?

What does this parable teach us about the forgiving nature of God? Are there any bounds on God and his forgiveness of us?

How does this story that Jesus tells about our Heavenly Father change your thoughts about who God is and what He is like?

What would you like to remember about this message?