

# God Is Calling the Prodigal Brother, Too

Luke 15:11-32

# God Is Calling the Prodigal Brother, Too

- Jesus loves the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son; these are the most popular of His parables.
- But the reason He related these parables in the first place is for the lost self-righteous
  - Luke 15:1-3 - “Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, This Man receives sinners and eats with them. 3 So He spoke this parable to them, saying”

# God Is Calling the Prodigal Brother, Too

- This parable reminds us that this father had two sons, and both were lost.
  - The younger son was lost in a far country.
  - The elder brother was lost in the father's house.
  - The younger son was a lost hedonist; he lived for pleasure.
  - The elder brother was a lost moralist; he lived to maintain appearances.

# God Is Calling the Prodigal Brother, Too

- There are two ways to be lost:
  - One way is to live for pleasure and sin. This is how the younger brother lived, and he was lost.
  - The other way is to try to keep all of the law and believe yourself to be good. This is how the elder brother lived, and he was lost too
    - 1John 1:8 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
  - Like the Pharisees, many often equate being good with being saved.

# He Was Not Respectful

- Luke 15:11, 25 - “Then He said: A certain man had two sons... 25 Now his older son was in the field...”
- He is the elder brother, and under the Law of Moses he is entitled to a double portion and is looked to for legal and moral leadership by the extended family
  - Deut. 21:17 - “But he shall acknowledge the ... firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.”

# He Was Not Respectful

- He was a laborer. He was in the fields busy with his father's business.
  - 1Sam. 16:7 - "But the LORD said to Samuel, Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

# He Was Not Respectful

- Matt. 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'”
- Jer. 17:10 - “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.”

# He Was Resentful

- Luke 15:25-28 - “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' 28 But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.”



# He Was Resentful

- He did not love his younger brother.
- He did not truly love his father.
- His resentment was not hidden.
- Ironically, on the day that the father found his younger son, he lost his older son.
- Note that the older brother did not want a feast to celebrate with his family; he wanted to celebrate with his friends
  - Luke 15:29 - “... you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.”
- Serving is douleou, the word for slavery

# He Was Resentful

- What was most revealing about his attitude?
  - Luke 15:29 - “I never transgressed your commandment at any time” - Arrogance!
  - Luke 15:30 - “This son of yours” - Did you notice that at no time did he address him as father?
  - Luke 15:30 - “has devoured your livelihood with harlots” - Who told him his brother spent his money on prostitutes?

# He Was Resentful

- He did this while staying at home and working hard in his father's fields
- It is not necessary to be a drunk, liar, thief, murderer, homosexual, or a liberal to be lost.
- It is not necessary to be unfaithful in attendance to be in the far country spiritually

# He Was Resentful

- Ez. 36:25-28 - “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. 28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.”

# He Was Resentful

- 1John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- Matt. 12:35 - “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.”

# He Was Foolishly Resolute

- He refused his father's plea
- He refused his father's promises
- He refused his father's passion

# He Was Foolishly Resolute

- It was right and necessary that they celebrate
  - Luke 15:4-7 - “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' 7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”

# An Open Ended Parable

- Did the elder brother ever come to the feast?
- Did he repent of his sinful attitudes and embrace his restored brother?
- How will this story end for you?



# An Open Ended Parable

- 1John 1:5-10 - “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”