

The Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

Introduction:

1. In **v1-2** the Pharisees condemned the Lord for associating with non religious people.
2. But the Lord's answer to scoffers has always been, "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**" - **Matt 11:28**.
 - a. The Lord spent His life seeking & saving the lost.
 - b. The Lord's will is for you to seek & save the lost - **ILL: Compel People to the Banquet (Lk 14:16-23)**.
3. God wants all to enjoy His kingdom - regardless of what they've done in the past.

I. v11-16 - He Came to a Distant Country

- A. He separated himself from his dad & his family's godly influence.
 1. **v12** - Sin is the "I want it now" attitude.
 2. Sin is rebellion against God's plan for you - **ILL: The Garden of Eden (Gen 3:1-19)**.
 3. **v13** - Sin separates you from the Lord.
 4. **v13** - Sin is mismanagement of your Heavenly Father's property.
- B. **v15-16** - The result of sin is slopping the hogs!
 1. The world believes that slopping the hogs is where it's at!
 - a. If I could just get that next fix - that next drink!
 - b. If I could just get that position at work!
 - c. If I could just get that house & those fancy "toys".
 - d. If I could just win that sweepstakes & have all that money!
 - e. The world's best is slopping the hogs!
 2. But instead of slopping the hogs you could be sitting at your Heavenly Father's banquet table!

II. v17-19 - He Came to His Senses

- A. **v17** - By an awareness of his condition.
 1. He became poor & hungry - life on his own wasn't as glamorous as he had thought.
 2. Before you can really appreciate God you need to become aware of your lost condition.
- B. **v18** - By a resolution to do something about it.
 1. **v7 & v10** - **Repent** (μετανοέω) = make up your mind to change your life.
 2. He humbled himself & made his own choice to return.
 3. Like Jesus he set his face towards Jerusalem (**Lk 9:51**).

III. v20-24 - He Came to a Compassionate Father

- A. Full of forgiveness.
 1. This picture is a loving, forgiving God - in contrast to the self righteous Pharisee.
 2. **I Jn 1:9** - **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**
- B. Full of joy.
 1. **v20** - **Compassion** (σπλαγχνίζω) = his intestines ached.
 2. "Threw his arms around him" = literally forcefully fell upon his neck. - **ILL: The reception a football player gets from other team members.**
 3. He kept kissing him.
 4. **v21** - He was so overjoyed he didn't give his son the chance to confess his sin!
 5. **v22-24** - He quickly treated his son richly - robe, sandals, fatted calf, party.

IV. v25-32 - He Came to an Older Brother

- A. **v29-30** - He came to an older brother full of bitterness & jealousy.
1. **I Cor 3:3** says jealousy for a Christians means they are still in the world.
 2. **I Cor 13:4** says when you're jealous, you're not walking in love.
 3. **Jam 3:14** says when you're jealous, you're denying the truth.
- B. **v31** - When dad died he would possess everything.
1. An oldest son gets a double portion of an inheritance according to the OT.
 2. Younger brother had already spend his third so older brother would get everything dad accumulates until he dies; considerably more than they have now!
- C. Who do you identify with in this story?
1. The lost sin? If so - come home to a loving heavenly Father.
 2. The older brother? If so - you need an attitude check!
 3. The abandoned father? If so - make your goal to be like him. Become more like Jesus in our attitudes & relationships.

You have to decide - is this church a country club for saints or a hospital for sinners? Our Lord was the Great Physician & came to seek & to save the lost! It's time for you to reach out into a dark & immoral society & touch those who are entrapped there!

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