

Sermon Discussion – 2 June 2024

Read Luke 15:1-32

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

Think of the prodigals in your own life. Whether it's a family member, a friend, a coworker, etc., we all know someone who tends to live life on the run. What is your attitude towards them? Are you ready to welcome them home? Do you secretly (or not so secretly) resent them? How closely does your attitude resemble the Father's?

Observation *Discovering the context*

Jesus is teaching in response to the complaints of his critics. What is their complaint? Realise, these same people who are accusing Jesus are listening to these parables. The parables are directed at those who scoff at Jesus bringing hope to people who seem to be far from God. But the ones who thought they were close were actually far away from God and the ones who seemed far off were closer to God than anyone thought they were.

- Look for the joy expressed in each of the three parables (v. 1-7; 8-10; 11-32) and ask "Why does God celebrate with 'sinners'?"
- Jesus said that when lost people are found, heaven rejoices (v. 7, 10)...do we? How could we do this as a church?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. Why do you think the man lays the sheep on his shoulders for the walk home in v. 5? How does this tie into the Parable of the Prodigal...specifically, how the Lord treats us after we have been found?
2. In v. 7 and 10, we see the word "repent." What does it mean to repent?
3. What do you think motivated the younger son to demand his inheritance from his father and what type of pain did the father likely experience? How does sin promise enjoyment but bring enslavement? How does obedience to God's will bring true freedom?
4. The son was brought to repentance in v 17-19. How is true repentance different than regret or remorse?
5. At the end of the parable, where is the older brother? Where is the younger brother? How does this connect the Parable of the Lost Son with the two preceding parables (the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin)?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- What do you believe about God's reaction to your mistakes, failures, and times of rebellion? Do you draw near to Him or stay away until you can clean up your act?
- What do you feel like God is asking you to do in response to this message? What is your next step?