
The Prodigal God: The Two Lost Sons
March 6-7, 2010
Luke 15:11-32

"The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them."

Notes:

"Nothing, not even abject contrition, merits the favor of God. The Father's love and acceptance are absolutely free." The Prodigal God," pg 24.

Quick Review

We took an in-depth look at the parable that is commonly known as the "Prodigal Son" and revealed the truth that both sons are lost not just one. This week we focus on the younger son and the choice he makes. We ask how and why he made the request of his father. Yet even better we see the father's remarkable response when the son comes back. If pastor was to give an abbreviated version of the message, which point would you tell him not to leave out?

Small Groups

Getting to Know Each Other

1. If you could visit any place in the world, where would you choose to go and why?
2. Adults are always telling children not to grow up too fast and children would like to be older so that they can access the stuff they think they are missing out on. Do you remember a time when you tried to show people you were older than you really were? How did others treat you? To what extent are we willing to go to be independent from our parents?
3. Thinking about your family: who was or is the obedient one in your family? The wild one? Which one are you? How did or do these types get along?

Into the Bible

1. Throughout the Bible we read stories about younger and older brothers. Read these two stories and identify the difference between the way that these brothers treat each other compared to the parable in Luke 15.
Genesis 25:24-34, 27:30-40, 33:1-4 Genesis 37:17-27, 45:4-8
2. Keller says in his book "there is no evil that the father's love cannot pardon and cover, there is no sin that is a match for his grace." pg. 24. Read some examples from Scripture that support this quote and then discuss what the quote means to you.
Jeremiah 31:31-34 Isaiah 1:18 Revelation 7:14

3. Before the younger son can even make his rehearsed appeal to the father, he is accepted back into the family. In what ways does Romans 5:6-8 support this idea? Would you have it any other way?

Application

1. After knowing and experiencing God's forgiveness and acceptance, how could we turn from him every time we sin? Yet each time we sin we miss the mark of what God's plan is for us. When we sin and walk away from God, do we try and rationalize, justify, or do we flat out rebel against him?
2. How do you think the father would react if after being home for two months the younger brother demands more money and leaves once again to live the wild life? Do you think that he would welcome him home once the money runs out? When we continually sin does God continue to forgive us? At what point does he stop? After discussing these issues read Matthew 18:21-22.
3. The younger brother believed that he was unworthy to be called a son in his father's household. Is this consistent with the way that people today view what it takes to be loved and accepted by God?
4. If you were to compare your spiritual journey to the parable of the two lost sons, where are you now? Would you be: at home but not happy, in a far country, coming to my senses, on my way home, just arrived home/feeling great, or enjoying the fattened calf?
5. Was there anything that challenged you, you didn't agree with or just wanted to discuss with the group that you read in the book from pages 17-28?

Prayer

In your prayer time ask that God reveal the ways that you have acted like a younger brother. Share with the group one way that they can pray for you or something going on in your life.

Family Groups Into the Bible

Read *Luke 15:11-32*

Application

Ages 2-11

1. When playing with other kids are you more likely to take the toys the other kids are playing with or are you the one who runs and tells when someone takes your toy?
2. Have you ever wanted to be older? What made you feel that way?
3. Share one thing that you learned from Grace Place this weekend.

Ages 12-18

1. Thinking about the parables in Luke 15, who do you see as the hero of each of the parables? Because parables are an earthly message with a heavenly meaning, who do you believe the hero represents?
2. Do you think it was wise of the father to give his son the inheritance when he knew that it would probably be gone in a short amount of time?
3. If you were to create an invitation for the younger brother in the story what would you say that might bring him home?
4. Share one idea or question that you wanted to talk about from Castaway, High School Bible Class or the Point.

For Families of all ages

As you are gathered together as a family go around and say one thing that you like about each other. Reflect on the things that God has done in your family.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for my family. Help us to grow in our relationship with you and with each other. Help us to support and nurture each other as we grow to know you more and learn about your love for us. Amen.