

Luke 15:11-32

Review & Introduction

I. The Lost (Prodigal) Son - Luke 15:11-24

II. "A man had two sons," the younger son left home (vv. 11–13).

A. The younger son foolishly demanded, "give me the share of the estate that falls to me." Give me what's owed to me! (v. 12)

1. Give me my Inheritance! (v. 12b) [Mark 4:19, 2 Tim. 3:1-2]

2. Give me my Independence! (He Wanted his Freedom).

B. Note a crucial point: the father gave the son his freedom along with his possessions.

C. The Result: the younger prodigal son wasted his life on "loose, wild, reckless living." (v. 13)

III. The younger son met the day when he suffered great need, lost everything and became desperate. (vv. 14-16)

A. Notice, the younger son suffered (4) Key Things.

1. He suffered being destitute. "He spent everything." (v. 14a)

2. He suffered a natural disaster from God. A famine struck the land. He became impoverished (broke). (v. 14b,c)

3. He suffered enslavement and humiliation. (v. 15)

4. He suffered hunger. (v. 16)

IV. Sin—Repentance—Thinking: The younger son finally came to himself; "he came to his senses" and faced reality. (vv. 17-19)

A. He thought about his dilemma: "I am dying here" (v. 17)

B. Humbling himself would involve two significant steps. (vv. 18-19)

1. Repenting.

2. Confession.

V. The younger son gets up and returns to his father. (vv. 20-21)

A. He was accepted even before he confessed.

B. The reason the father runs to meet his son. (v. 20b)

C. The younger (prodigal) son confessed his terrible evil to the father. (v. 21)

VI. The younger son was accepted and restored when he returned to the father. (vv. 22-24)

A. The father restored him. (v. 22)

1. **The Robe.** Isa 61:10, *"I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness..."*

2. **The Ring.** Gal 4:6-7, "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"⁷Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

3. **The Sandals.** Eph 6:15, "and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;"

B. The father fed the son and celebrated his son's return. (v. 23)

1. What is the significance of the "fatted calf" in the parable?

C. The father proclaimed his son's new life. (v. 24)

D. All three celebrations reflect heaven's joy at the divine recovery of lost sinners.

VII. **The Lost Older Son.** (vv. 11, 25)

VIII. Errors of Religionists: The first fault of the religionist (the older son) is that of his tragic position. (v. 25)

A. How much religion does a man need to soothe his conscience and make him acceptable to God?

1. Some men sense they don't need any religious activity.

2. Some men who know they cannot please God with the works of their hands.

3. This third group (The False Religionist) senses the need for a great deal of man-centered religious activity. (vv. 26-27)

IX. The second fault of the religionist is his tragic rejection of God. (v. 28)

A. The religionist reacts against true repentance. How?

X. The third fault of the religionist is his tragic self-righteousness. (v. 29)

A. The older son angrily claimed (3) three things.

1. He claimed to be religious. (v. 29a-b)

2. He claimed to be moral and just. (v. 29c)

3. He claimed he deserved more, that he was not recognized enough. (v. 29d)

XI. The fourth fault of the religionist is his tragic lack of compassion. (v. 30)

XII. The fifth fault of the religionist is his tragic blindness. (v. 31)

XIII. Everybody in these three parables experience joy except the older brother.

XIV. Conclusion.