

THE LOST SONS #1

“Unexpected Love”

Luke 15:11-24

Many people entertain a mental image of God as being an all powerful angry man, who stands at the ready looking for sinners to punish! This concept of God stands in stark contrast to the picture that the Lord Jesus presents of God in the parable of the “Prodigal Son.” This is arguably the favorite of Jesus’ parables, and certainly, gives us a glimpse into God’s heart—which is filled with love and compassion for those who wander away from him!

#1. THE SETTING OF THE PARABLE, vv. 11-12

- A. A father with 2 sons & a large estate, v. 11
- B. The younger son: backslider or nonbeliever?, v. 11
- C. The older son: bad attitude toward sinners, v. 12
- D. The father shows us God’s heart for the lost, v. 32

#2. A LIFESTYLE OF SELF-INDULGENCE RESULTS IN POOR DECISION-MAKING, v. 12

- A. His inheritance would give him opportunities
- B. This is like saying, “Father, I wish you were dead!”
- C. This is the ultimate disrespect to his family
- D. The oldest received a double portion, Deu 21:17
- E. Why did the father grant the request?

#3. A LIFESTYLE OF SELF-INDULGENCE RESULTS IN PERSONAL DESTRUCTION, vv. 13-16

- A. He liquidates everything into cash, v. 13
- B. He left the promised land, v. 13
- C. He squandered his wealth in wild living, v. 13
- D. He was in need of food because of a famine, v. 14
- E. He became a day laborer feeding the pigs, v. 15
- F. He longed for the pods the pigs were eating, v. 16

APPLICATION POINTS

- ♣ The hedonistic lifestyle looks appealing but leads to spiritual slavery, Rom 6:12-13
- ♣ Don’t squander your spiritual inheritance

#4. A LIFESTYLE OF SELF-INDULGENCE SHOULD RESULT IN REPENTANCE, vv. 17-20a

- A. He came to his senses - repentance, v. 17
- B. He remembered the father’s hired hands, v. 17
- C. He wants to reconcile with his father, v. 18
- D. He wants to be a day laborer, v. 19
- E. He returns to the father, v. 20a

APPLICATION POINT

- ♣ A sinful lifestyle causes regrets, Rom 6:20-21

#5. A LIFESTYLE OF SELF-INDULGENCE REQUIRES GOD’S FORGIVENESS, vv. 20b-24

- A. The father embraced him, v. 20b
- B. The son confessed his sin – no denial, v. 21
- C. The father accepted him & restored him: gave him a robe, ring, and sandals, v. 22
- D. Let’s celebrate – kill the fattened calf, v. 23
- E. Let’s celebrate – He went from death to life, v. 24
- F. Let’s celebrate – He was lost, now is found, vv.7 & 24

Application Points

- ♣ God always accepts a repentant sinner
 - ♣ God grants full privileges to repentant sinners
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Today’s Scripture

Luke 15:11-24

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his

fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' ²⁰So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Romans 6:12-13: Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness

Romans 6:20-21: When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

Luke 15:7: I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What is the context of Luke 15?
- #2. What conception of God do most people on the street have?
- #3. What do you think his motive was in asking for his cut of the inheritance?

#4. In what way(s) was his request disrespectful to the Father? What about his brother?

#5. Why did the Father give it to him?

#6. What was the result of his hedonistic lifestyle?

#7. What caused him to come to his senses and repent?

#8. Have you ever regretted decisions you've made in the past? How did it make you feel?

#9. Why did he wonder if his father would take him back?

#10. What do you think of the Father's response to his repentant son? If you were the Father in this story how would you have responded to your son?

#11. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

NOTES