

The Lost Sons #2
“Unexpected Rejection”
Luke 15:11-32

How do you feel when someone gives their heart to Jesus, especially if it's someone in your family—your baby brother. You'd feel pretty good about that, wouldn't you! That was not the case with the older brother in the parable of the “Lost Sons.” When his baby brother repented of his immoral, irresponsible lifestyle and returned home after squandering his inheritance, his father was elated! He, however, was livid! Why would he feel this way? Why didn't he share his father's sentiments? Today's teaching will answer these questions.

1. THE YOUNGER BROTHER CAME TO GOD IN A STATE OF BROKENNESS, vv. 11-20

- A. He requested his cut of the inheritance, vv. 11-12
- B. He disowned the family, vv. 11-12
- C. He blew it all on hedonistic living, vv.13-14
- D. He plunged into the pit of despair, vv. 15-16
- E. He came to his senses & repented, v. 17
- F. He threw himself at his father's mercy, vv. 18-20

HIS PERSONALITY PROFILE

- ♣ Very Selfish
- ♣ Not trustworthy
- ♣ Highly manipulative
- ♣ Very irresponsible
- ♣ Incredibly immature
- ♣ Lacks self-control
- ♣ Very Disrespectful
- ♣ Has a problem with authority
- ♣ He's every parent's nightmare

LET'S NAME HIM – MR. ME

2. THE FATHER ALWAYS LOVES, ACCEPTANCES & FORGIVES REPENTANT SINNERS, vv. 20-24

- A. The father shows us God's love for sinners who repent, v. 20
- B. The father forgave him, v. 20
- C. The father restored him in the family, v. 22
- D. The father celebrated his repentance, vv. 23-24

3. THE PROFILE OF THE OLDER BROTHER, vv. 25-32

- A. He was the responsible one
- B. He was a hard worker
- C. He was grounded spiritually
- D. He helped raise his little brother
- E. He was loyal to his father
- F. He is dependable
- G. He's the kind of son any parent would be proud of

LET'S NAME HIM – MR. HOLY

4. MR. HOLY IS ANGRY WHEN HE SEES HIS BROTHER RESTORED TO HIS FATHER, vv. 25-28

- A. He has an axe to grind with his brother, v. 28
- B. He has put in a hard day's work, v. 25
- C. He doesn't agree with his father's call, vv. 26-28
- D. He doesn't join the celebration, v. 28
- E. His father pleaded with him to join the gig, v. 28b

5. MR. HOLY FEELS UNAPPRECIATED BY HIS FATHER, vv. 29-30

- A. I've been “slaving” for you, v. 29
- B. I never disobeyed you, v. 29
- C. You never gave me a celebration like this, v. 29
- D. Your son squandered your property, v. 30
- E. Your son visited prostitutes, v. 30
- F. In spite of this you kill the fattened calf for him, v. 30

APPLICATION POINTS – MR. HOLY REPRESENTS:

- The life-long church goer who is a modern-day Pharisee. (Mark 2:15-17)
- The life-long church goer who gives the repentant sinner or backslider a cold shoulder.
- The life-long church goer who wants to see God punish the repentant sinner.
- The life-long church goer who thinks God's grace isn't fair.
- The life-long church goer whose heart is barren.

6. MR. HOLY'S INABILITY TO GRASP HIS PRIVILEGED POSITION WITH HIS FATHER REVEALS THAT HE IS LOST, vv. 31-32

- A. Reminder: You're my Son (not a slave), v. 31
- B. Reminder: You're always with me, v. 31
- C. Reminder: You have unrestricted access to all that is mine, v. 31
- D. Reminder: We have to celebrate!, v. 32
- E. Reminder: Your brother was dead & is alive, v. 32
- F. Reminder: Your brother was lost & is found, v. 32
- G. Mr. Holy is estranged from his father and brother

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:25-32

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' ²⁸'The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' ³¹'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Luke 15:1-3: Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³Then Jesus told them this parable:

Mark 2:15-17: While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹⁷On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the differences in the personalities of the two sons.
 2. Why was the older brother angry when he discovered his brother returned home and they killed the fattened calf to celebrate?
 3. If you were the older son how would you feel about your brother's return and the celebration that the father has?
 4. The older son said, "I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed you." What does that reveal about his relationship to his father? (v. 29)
 5. Discuss each of the application points.
 6. What did the father mean in v. 31?
 7. The younger brother was lost and found, but was the older brother lost?
 8. What is your takeaway from this teaching?
-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REOPENING

Lord willing, we are planning on reopening for Good Friday and Easter Sunday unless the covid pandemic renders that impossible.

WE ARE MAKING GREAT PROGRESS

We are continuing to improve the quality of our zoom services thanks to DJ, Tyle and Johanna. It is our goal to provide you with the best possible service that we can. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for financially supporting the ministry of Hillcrest Church. You can give online at the church website or mail your check to the church.

- Give to the general fund (our operating expenses)
- Give to the elder's fund (to assist those in financial need)
- Give to the Great Commission fund (for the missionaries of the CMA)