

**THE LOST SONS #3**  
**“Life in the Father’s House”**  
**Luke 15:11-32**

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In the parable of the “Lost Sons” there are three characters: the Father, and his two sons that lived with him. This morning I’m going to take you inside the Father’s house and attempt to paint a portrait of what life is like living with the Father. The overwhelming characteristic of living in the Father’s house is the reception of his love! In today’s message I will conclude this series by discussing the various dimensions of love that exist in the Father’s house.

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**#1. IN THE FATHER’S HOUSE WE HAVE ACCESS TO ALL HIS RESOURCES, v. 31**

- A. Everything is God’s, Ps 24
- B. Every promise in Scripture is for us, 2 Pet 1:3-4
- C. Every blessing is available in Christ, Eph 1:3

**#2. IN THE FATHER’S HOUSE THERE IS FREEDOM OF CHOICE, v. 12**

- A. The Father respects our free will
- B. The Father’s love doesn’t coerce
- C. The Father’s love causes him heartache & pain
- D. The Father rejoices over repentant sinners

**#3. IN THE FATHER’S HOUSE SINNERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, v. 20**

- A. The Father welcomed his son back, v. 20
- B. God doesn’t desire that anyone perish, 2 Pet 3:9
- C. God’s initiative is to seek & save, Luke 19:10, Mat 28:19-20
- D. The Father’s house is not a closed community

**#4. IN THE FATHER’S HOUSE THERE IS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, v. 20, 31**

- A. The Father loved both sons equally
- B. God accepts you just as you are
- C. God has no favorites in his house
- D. God’s love surpasses knowledge, Eph 3:17-20, Ps 103:11

**#5. IN THE FATHER’S HOUSE THERE IS CELEBRATION, v. 32**

- A. Celebrate when a sinner repents, Lk 15:7, 10, 22-24, 32
- B. Celebrate our adoption, Ro 8:15-16
- C. Celebrate our family relationships, Ro 8:15-16
- D. Celebrate our inheritance, v. 22

**#6. IN THE FATHER’S HOUSE THERE CAN BE MESSY RELATIONSHIPS, v. 30**

- A. The two brothers had a strained relationship
- B. We are all imperfect people
- C. There will be conflict to deal with in any church

**#7. IN THE FATHER’S HOUSE WE ARE TRANSFORMED INTO HIS IMAGE, v. 32**

- A. We are on a journey to adulthood, 1 Jn 2:12-14
  - B. We follow Jesus’ example, John 14:8-9
  - C. We are to emulate Father God, Mat 5:48
  - D. We are to become a father to others, Ps 68:5, 1 Cor 4:15
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**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 15:11-32:** Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not 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. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>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! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' <sup>20</sup>So 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. <sup>21</sup>The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>'The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But 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. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. Identify the resources that are available to believers in God's house.
- #2. Explain why God respects our freewill and allows us to make bad choices like the younger son in the parable.
- #3. Explain how life in the Father's house should be purposeful?
- #4. Why is it that some churches become inbred and develop a fortress mentality?
- #5. Explain the dynamics of God's unconditional love?
- #6. What are the things that we celebrate in the Father's house?
- #7. How do we deal with the messy aspect of church relationships?
- #8. Explain how life in the Father's house is a journey of transformation?

#9. In what ways can we become a father or mother to someone else?

#10. What is your takeaway from this passage?

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### REOPENING HILLCREST CHURCH

The date has been set to begin meeting in person on Good Friday at 6:30pm and Easter Sunday at 10:30am. We will have a hybrid service so we will continue broadcasting on zoom. For those who attend in person we will be following all the covid protocols:

- Wear a mask
- Social distance
- Stay home if you feel sick
- No food or drinks will be served
- We have prepackaged communion cups-covid friendly
- Hand sanitizers are throughout the building
- Let common sense prevail!

#### NEXT WEEK MARCH 14TH

Aaron Olsen will be bringing the message

#### MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>

Dr. Bruce will begin his Easter teaching series, which culminates in a celebration of the resurrection of Christ!