

EXTREME LOVE – PART I

“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

_____, v. 12

- A. His inheritance would give him opportunities
- B. This is the ultimate disrespect to his family
- C. The oldest received a double portion, Deu 21:17
- D. Why did the father grant the request?

#3. A LIFESTYLE OF SELF-INDULGENCE RESULTS IN

_____, 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 fell into hard times feeding the hogs, v. 14

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APPLICATION POINT

- ♣ The hedonistic lifestyle looks appealing but leads to spiritual _____, Rom 6:12-13

#4. A LIFESTYLE OF SELF-INDULGENCE SHOULD RESULT IN

_____, 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 for his dad, v. 19
- E. He returns to the father, v. 20a

APPLICATION POINTS

- ♣ A sinful lifestyle causes _____, Rom 6:20-21
- ♣ Don’t squander your spiritual _____

#5. A LIFESTYLE OF SELF-INDULGENCE REQUIRES GOD’S

_____, 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 _____
- ♣ God grants full _____ to repentant sinners

ANSWERS: Decision-Making, Self-Destruction, Bondage, Repentance, Regrets, Inheritance, Forgiveness, sinner, Privileges.

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?

Welcome

to

Hillcrest Church

Happy Mother's Day!

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;*

Psalm 103:11

May 14, 2023

Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOTHER'S DAY BLESSINGS

We wish all the mother's in the house a happy Mother's Day blessing. We appreciate all you do.

TODAY

Pastor Bruce is beginning a new series titled Extreme Love based on the parable of the prodigal son. This teaching will elevate your understanding of how much God loves you.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

The Prayer Meeting: Tuesday at 7pm with Pastor Tim Brooks

The Bible study: Wednesday at 6:30 – 7:45pm. Go to the online meeting room on our website (hillcrestRoseville.com) to access either gathering.

PROJECT "ROOF 23"

Hillcrest church needs a new roof! The cost is about 45K depending on how much dry rot is discovered once the shingles are removed. We need everyone's help in paying for this project. Prayerfully consider making your donations to the "building fund."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online (hillcrestroseville.com).

CHURCH AT GARBOLINO PARK – JUNE 4, 10:30

Bring a chair, blanket, and a dish to share. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments and utensils.

EAST INDIAN DINNER TOTALS

- ♣ 2022 East Indian Dinner raised over \$10,000
- ♣ 2023 East Indian Dinner raised over \$11,00 and counting

Total Missions Giving for 2022

Kibaale School in Uganda - \$6,677

Great Commission Fund - \$13,161

Total \$19,838

CHURCH PICNIC – AUGUST 13, 2023