

Parables and Miracles of Luke

April 30, 2017

“The Parable of the Lost Son”

Or

“The Prodigal Son” (Part #6)

Luke 15:25-32

Introduction:

Review:

- I. A Soul Lost and Found (11-21)
- II. A Soul Searched For and Found (20-21)
 - A) The Son’s Spiritual Return (20a, 21)
 - B) The Father’s Unexpected Response (20bc)
- III. Something to Celebrate (22-24)
 - A) Honor (22)
 - B) Celebration / Blessing (23-24)

IV. Something to Complain About (25-30)

Unfortunate Characteristics of the Self-Righteous:

A) The Self-Righteous Have a Problem with Grace and Mercy (25-30)

The older brother implies in v. 30 that his younger brother dishonored his father. How is this complaint hypocritical for him to make?

When the members of the family are referenced, they are usually designated by virtue of their connection to one another (“*your brother*,” “*your father*,” etc). However, how does the older son reference his younger brother (v. 30)? _____ And his father (29)?

- What do you think this implies?

Though we don’t like to claim that we hate someone, what are some subtle ways that we might display hatred toward another?

B) The Self-Righteous are Blind (29-30)

To what are the self-righteous blind?

C) The Self-Righteous Believe that They Have Earned Grace (29)

How does the older brother describe his service to his father?

How You Act When You Serve and Don't Get Recognized Says a Lot about Why You Were Serving to Begin With!

How does the older brother overstate his worth?

D) The Self-Righteous are Jealous and Envious of Others (29-30)

The older son complained that he was not given a party, but what had the father given to him?

The Dual Form of Jealousy:

#1 – The Envious Covet What Others Have

#2 – The Envious Often Want to Take Away from Others the Specific Thing They Covet

➤ Explain:

Though the older son decries the sins of his younger brother, how does it seem like he wants the same?

The sins of both sons were related, but how did they express them differently?

E) The Self-Righteous Prefer to See Others Suffer for Their Sin Rather than Receive Grace and Mercy (30)

2 Important Factors the Older Brother Failed to Account For:

#1 - _____ Can Be Good!

#2 – Because No One Can Be Good – We All Need _____!

What opportunity did this older son pass up?

Though Facing the Consequences of Your Sin Is Not Always Easy, God Offers Forgiveness So Freely that He Makes Repentance the Best Option for Anyone Stuck in Sin and the Only Option to Escape Sin and Its Consequences!

F) The Self-Righteous are Self-Centered (30)

What messed everything up for the older brother in his own estimation?

How would you describe the attitude of the father in coming out to his older brother?

V. Something That Must Celebrated (31-32)

A) Why the Older Son Should Not Be Angry (31)

Why wasn't there a party thrown for the older son?

What belonged to the older son?

B Why the Older Son Should Rejoice (32)

Describe the Greek word translated "*Had to*":

Though the parable is open-ended leaving the hearer to contemplate what should be done and what he himself might do, since the older brother represents the Pharisees and Scribes (and to some degree the nation of Israel), what do you think the ending of the parable might be?

Parable:

“The Parable of the Gracious Father”
(AKA: “The Parable of the Prodigal Son”)

Text:

Luke 15:11-32

Context:

- 1) Luke 15:1-2 – The Scribes and Pharisees Grumbling at Christ’s Mercy on Them
- 2) Luke 15:3-10 – Two Parables Making the Same Point as The Third: “God and Heaven Rejoice Over the Repentance of Even One Sinner”

Cultural Considerations: The Honor-Shame Culture of First Century Israel

Representations in the Parable:

- 1) The Father = God/Christ
- 2) The Younger Son = Sinners
- 3) The Return of the Young Son = Repentant Sinners
- 4) The Older Brother = Pharisees/Scribes = Self-Righteous

Point of the Parable:

God and Heaven Rejoice Over the Repentance of Even One Sinner, But the Self-Righteous Don’t Like That!

Applications:

- 1) Repent and Find Mercy and Grace
- 2) Rejoice in God’s Mercy and Grace for Yourself and Others