

III. Jesus Redefines What It Means to be Saved

- God seeks us and not the other way around.

- Repent for something more than bad behavior.

- Evaluate the cost



How Do You Respond to the Father's Love?

Luke 15:1,2, 11-32

¹ Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Act 1-The Younger Brother

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’

So he divided his property between them.

¹³ “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. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He 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! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’

²⁰ 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.

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.'²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.'²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Act II-The Elder Brother

²⁵ Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.²⁶ So 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.

²⁹ 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.'³⁰ But 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.'³² 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.' "

The Three Keys to the Parable

I. Jesus redefines their view of God

Our Father who art in Heaven hallowed be thy Name... Matthew 6:9

II. Jesus Exposes Another Side of Sin

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7