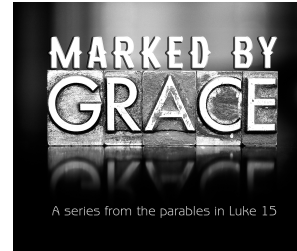


Notes:



Dan Wilvers- February 19th, 2017 Part 7

The True Older Brother? *Luke 15:25-32*

Parable of the Prodigal Son

“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.’”
This is God’s Word

Let’s remember that in the very beginning of chapter 15, Jesus is speaking to religious leaders, teachers of the law, who look at him fraternizing with those that they call “sinners.”

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.
Luke 15:1

Of course Jesus is condemned in verse 2 by the Pharisees and scribes for receiving them and eating with them.

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”
Luke 15:2

In response, Jesus gives three parables:

The first parable is about the lost sheep.

The second parable is about the lost coin.

The third parable is about the lost son.

In talking to the Pharisees; Jesus is saying:

The purpose of the parable is to address self-righteous attitudes that signify being spiritually lost.

God is by nature a Savior. *Verse 7*, the end of the story about a shepherd finding his sheep, He says: *"There's joy in heaven over one sinner who repents."*

Verse 10 at the end of a story about a woman who finds a lost coin, again: *"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

But in telling the older brothers story-

Jesus is revealing to us another side to being spiritually lost.

How was the older brother spiritually lost?

The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. vs. 28

The reaction of the older brother is so important, and in this reaction the religious leaders meet themselves. They consistently were angry about Jesus associating with sinners, engaging them, even forgiving them. And what does he say?

"Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders." vs. 29

He has no relationship to his Father, no concern for the honor of his dad, no joy, no understanding of mercy.

But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with

prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!" vs. 30

What Jesus was saying is in the end, that the a younger brother knows he was lost. The problem with being an older brother is he didn't know he was lost. Therefore, it's a more spiritually dangerous situation to be in.

Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. 32 I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent."

Luke 5:31,32

Therefore, Jesus says there are two ways to be spiritually lost.

One is by being very bad, and one by being good, one is by being very irreligious and another is by being very religious. One is by being immoral the other is by being very moral. Both ways are ways to reject God basically. But the trouble is the older brother types believe they are with God.

The very end of this story is wonderful because you're actually hearing Jesus Christ pleading with his enemies.

"My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. vs. 31

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." vs.32

"Only people who know they're lost have any hope of being found."

Tim Keller Pastor/Author