

I. Forgiveness Granted - Luke 15:20-24

1. The backside of the Prodigal son story - our lesson opens halfway through
 2. Opens with the return of the son (**verse 20**)
 - A. He got up
 - B. He went to his father
 3. The reaction of the Father
 - A. He saw him
 - B. While still a great way off

Rea -most parents can pick their children out of a crowd a long way off

 - C. Was filled with compassion
 - D. Runs to him
 - E. Hugs him
 - F. Kisses him

Rea *he waits for no apology - after all he is his father
-God is quicker to apologize than you are to confess!
 4. The son speaks (**verse 21**)
 - A. Father
 - B. I have sinned
 - C. The sin was against heaven and the father
 - D. Not worthy to be your son

Rea -most of us know whether we're "worthy" or not - he did not need to be reminded of his mistake (sin)

 - E. He does not try to blame anyone else - or rationalize
 5. The father cuts in (**verse 22**)
 - A. Quick
 - B. Bring the best robe
 - C. Put a ring on his finger
 - D. Put sandals on his feet
 - E. Kill the fatted calf (**verse 23**)
 - F. Let's have a feast and celebrate
 - G. My son was dead and is alive again

Rea -sounds like resurrection to me!!

 - H. He was lost and is found
 6. God offers forgiveness
- Rea -this son knew the character of the father - he knew it was okay to return
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. We want apologies when people return
 2. We don't want to instantly accept them
 3. Are you quick to forgive? - why or why not?
 4. Discuss the absolute drama of the meeting of these two

II. Resentment Expressed - Luke 15:25-30

1. The older brother was not present (**verse 25**)
 - in the field

- Rea -dutiful and responsible - good qualities both
2. He comes in from the fields - hears music and dancing - celebration
 3. He calls a servant and says - what is all this (**verse 26**)
 4. Your brother has returned (**verse 27**)
 - we celebrate because he is safe and sound
 - Rea -for a long time the father had wondered if he were dead or alive
 5. This “fattened” calf was unique - the article “the” is used for him
 6. The brother becomes angry (**verse 28**)
 - A. He refused to go in
 - B. So his father goes out
 - Rea -the father cares about this older son as well - so he goes to him
 - the father pleaded with him
 7. I’ve been slaving - you never did this for me (**verse 29**)
 - Rea -that’s true - perhaps he should have???
 - he did it “for you” - the father
 - he’d never disobeyed the father’s wishes - orders
 - I never even got a young “goat” to celebrate with my friends
 - Rea -compare “goat” here with special “calf” earlier
 8. This “son of yours” comes (**verse 30**)
 - A. This is the son that squandered your wealth
 - B. With prostitutes
 - C. And you kill the special calf??
 9. Jealousy
 - Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Fairness and logic were on the side of the older brother - but life is not always about “fairness”
 2. Do you think this father could’ve been a better father?
 3. The story is about grace - free forgiveness
 - quick forgiveness
 4. The older brother’s reaction is often our reaction - it is hard not to be jealous of those who leave the rest with the work and responsibilities and then just sorta “show up”

III. Reality Defined - Luke 15:31-32

1. My son (**verse 31**)
 - A. You are always with me
 - B. Everything I have is yours
- Rea -often we miss the idea that the younger son got no more inheritance, to make up for what he lost. Sin always has a cost... as much as we think that we just “be forgiven” and everything is back the way it was. Not true.
- Rea C. Over the missing years, the son had missed a lot - and the father had suffered a lot - through no fault of the father.
- D. The father had already given the younger son his part of the inheritance - just as he had requested...
- Rea -so if there is nothing left it is not the fault of the father
2. It was right to celebrate (**verse 32**)
 - A. He was dead and now is alive

B. He was lost and is now found

3. We all ought to celebrate the homecoming of “strays”

Rea -that does not mean we celebrate their lifestyle, nor does it mean that it was okay
 what the son did

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. So what is the solution? - for those of us who have consistently been faithful?

2. Younger sons are often not as “wise” as the elder ones - but are (nevertheless) the
“favorite”

3. The reaction of the father sounds like he’s been grief-stricken for a long time

4. A father never really turns loose on his son

5. At home the younger son made a new life - so can you

Jere Phillips - SS Lesson for 3-14-21