

## Parables of Jesus part 15

Various Scriptures

“So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him.” -Luke 15:20

**In consideration of those who are lost in sin, what are 3 things we can do to encourage them about God’s compassion?**

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Context: Jesus has been traveling throughout the region, crowds have gathered, some of the Pharisees are upset with him for talking and eating with sinners (Luke 15:1-2) In response he tells them 3 parables; the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. As Jesus turns his focus to the story of the lost son, he paints a vivid picture leaving them and us with a very important decision to make about how we respond to sinners and God’s love.

### **The parable of the Lost Son: Luke 15:11-32**

**Who do the 3 major people in the parable represent in Jesus’ day? Who do they represent today?**

Certain Man (Father) = \_\_\_\_\_

Younger Son = \_\_\_\_\_

Older Son = \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*The shame of the younger son: Luke 15:12-19*

How did the younger son bring shame to his father, family, and country?

\*By demanding his share of the \_\_\_\_\_

**According to Deuteronomy 21:17, what share of the estate would the the younger son be entitled to? When would he receive this? By asking for his share early, what did the younger son show?**

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Keep in mind, they didn’t have banks and accounts like we do today, so in order for the father to grant his son’s request he would have to sell some of his property. Furthermore to accept the inheritance means accepting responsibility to carry on providing for the family. This son was not looking for \_\_\_\_\_ but for

\_\_\_\_\_ and the easy road. Nevertheless the father distributed the assets to them.

What did the son do next? (13-16)

- \*gathered \_\_\_\_\_ he had
- \*traveled to a \_\_\_\_\_ land
- \*squandered his estate on \_\_\_\_\_ living....
- \*received a job feeding pigs
- \*ate the pigs food
- \*no one gave him anything

**As the Pharisees were listening to this story unfold, how do you think it made them feel? Why?**

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Then Jesus introduces a shift in the thinking of the younger son. Verse 17 says, When he came to his senses,

Greek word: heautou is the pronoun of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person; himself, herself, itself

Jesus is saying, in his rebellion and disobedience, the younger son wasn't himself.

One of the great traps of sin comes when we open ourselves up to our own selfish desires. It is in those moments that we can become spiritually blinded and lose our sense of direction. James 1:14

**Have you ever been lost in sin and forgot who you were? How did you find your way? What can you do or say to help others who are spiritually blind and lost today?**

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**What happened when he came to his senses?**

It wasn't until he hit rock bottom that he was reminded of who \_\_\_\_\_ was and who his \_\_\_\_\_ was.

- \*He was a son
- \*His father had hired workers
- \*They had more than enough food
- \*Of his actions

*The Love of the father: Luke 15:20*

As the son comes closer to his home, more than likely he's overwhelmed with fear and shame. He wished his father was dead, left his community, and now he has lost everything. In those days, not only would the family reject this disgraced son, but the community would reject and banish him as well.

Whenever a Jew would squander his wealth to foreigners they would face Kezazah.

Kezazah: "the cutting off"

It was performed by breaking clay pots at the feet of the man as a visual symbol that the community rejected him forever.

### **What did the father do?**

- \*Saw his son from afar
- \*Filled with \_\_\_\_\_
- \*He \_\_\_\_\_
- \*He embraced him
- \*He \_\_\_\_\_ him

The son tried to get his rehearsed speech together, but the father was overjoyed in his return.... verse 21

The father continued to show his love by:

- \*giving him the \_\_\_\_\_ robe
- \*ring on his finger
- \*sandals on his \_\_\_\_\_
- \*slaughtering the fattened calf
- \*celebrating his return

"Because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!"

**The love this father had for his lost son is the same love our heavenly Father has for us when we turn to him in faith. As we reflect on that love, how does this help in your own understanding of God's love for others who are still in their sins?**

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*The shame of the older son: Luke 15:25-31*

Finally we see the older son's response to his younger brother coming back home. Instead of going in to see, greet, and celebrate with his brother and the family, he turns angry and refuses to go in.

Again the father is put in a disgraceful situation by \_\_\_\_\_ the banquet to find his older son.

**Why is he so angry?**

\*I've been slaving many \_\_\_\_\_

\*I have \_\_\_\_\_ disobeyed

\*You never gave me a \_\_\_\_\_ so I could celebrate with my friends.

\*But when this son of yours came...

**How do you feel when others get rewards greater than you think they deserve?**

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**What is the great danger of anger?**

-It is self absorbed and \_\_\_\_\_ us to needs/interest of others.    Philippians 2:3-4; Proverbs 29:22

**How can you guard yourself from feeling resentful when God shows mercy to people you think don't deserve it?**

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In response to his anger, notice how the father tries to reason with him:

\*You are \_\_\_\_\_ with me

\* \_\_\_\_\_ I have is yours

\*We had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.

Unfortunately, the story abruptly ends.    Does the older brother go in and celebrate with the family or will he remain outside blinded by his anger?

How did the Pharisees complete this story?

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By \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus

Just as the father's love proved costly and visible for the younger and older son, so Jesus died in a costly, visible way so that we all might see the heart of God.

**What is one thing you learned from this lesson that you are willing to share with someone else?**

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**No matter what,  
No matter when,  
God's love for you is  
Unconditional.**