

Sunday, April 04

Pastor Jake Magee | Found | Luke 15



¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable...: ¹¹ “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.” ’ ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’ ”

Resource: *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith* by Timothy Keller

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

Getting Started

Reread Luke 15:11-32



1) If you are a sibling, what were the advantages/disadvantages of either being an older or younger sibling growing up? What do your sibling relationships look like now?

Digging Deeper

2) What are some ideas that stuck out to you from both sermons about this parable? Why are we spending time in Luke 15 as a church?

3) Comparing this parable with verses 1 & 2, who are the older and younger brothers supposed to represent in Jesus' story? What might an "older brother" look like today?

4) In verse 12 when the younger brother asked for his share of the estate, the Father divided his property between both sons. The father would later tell the son quite literally, "all that is mine is yours" (vs.31). Although the oldest son had possession of the remainder of the estate, he was to run it according to the values and wishes of the father until he died.

a) How does this help us to understand the scandal the older son would have caused with his response in verse 28?

b) Does this help you understand any other part of the story?

5) In the two other parables, you have someone searching for something lost. In this parable, there is no mention made of a search.

a) Since the older son was supposed to be the executive of the estate (acting in the stead of the father), do you think Jesus is trying to make a point to the Pharisees and Scribes? What would that be?

b) What has God "given" you, that you have a hard or easy time serving others with (e.g., money, a talent, wisdom, etc.)?

6) The father is throwing a party at the oldest sons' expense (vs.31).

a) How does that help you understand the frustration of the oldest son in verse 28?

b) Why is the son still wrong in his frustration?

c) Helping people to meet Jesus and grow in their faith can cost us. Name the different ways these relationships can cost us, and how does this parable help us to think well about those 'expenses.'

7) Jesus is the true older brother. Read Hebrews 2:10-17. How has God included us back into the family at Jesus' expense?

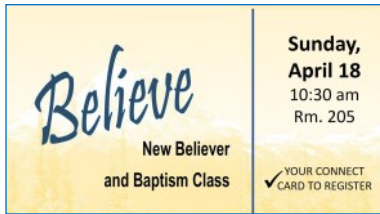
Putting It Into Practice

8) We are to be *good* older brothers to our city and neighbors.

a) What's one practical thing that you can do as an individual to be like Jesus to people this week?

b) What's one practical thing that our church family can do?

REGISTER TO ATTEND:



New Believer and Baptism Class:

Sunday, April 18, at 10:30 am.

Mark your CONNECT CARD or call the Office (360) 426-8461 to let us know of your plan to attend.



**Love & Respect Marriage Classes,
Thursdays, April 22– May 27 @ 6:00 pm.**

Register at the Info.Center, OR On Line
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