

Class #4: The Parable of Luke 15

Intro: Luke 15 is really ONE parable – the same theme is in all the ‘acts’ of the parable.

v. 1-2 – Context: Publicans & Sinners (as ‘hearers’) vs Pharisees & Scribes (as ‘deriders’)

1. Luke 15:1-10 – Sheep and Coins

v. 3-7 – One found sheep out of a 100 (1%). Lost outside the fold → the ‘publicans and sinners’ (Zacchaeus)

v. 8-10 – One found coin out of 10 (10%). Lost inside the house → of the ‘Pharisees and scribes’ (Nicodemus)

Note: 1. Attitude of ‘searcher’ – “until he/she finds it”! (our attitude??)

2. v. 7 – “need no repentance”???! - Pharisees attitude!

2. Luke 15:11-32 – Two Sons – often entitled ‘The Prodigal Son’ (means ‘waster’ v. 13)

But BOTH sons were lost!! (one outside and one inside!)

→ Rename the parable: Parable of the Lost (sheep, coin, sons) – or perhaps better: **Parable of the FOUND!**

3. The Father (God’s example to us as parents, or members of an ecclesia)

v. 12 - lovingly gave his goods (one third) to the younger son

- he did NOT have to do this! (Most sons had to wait until his dad died!)

- he did not chasten or demean his son (imagine the older brother’s reaction!)

v. 17 - cared for his servants, setting a good example for his sons (this was later the KEY to his sons recovery!)

v. 20 – he was watching and then he RAN to meet his son. (what’s our reaction as the offended party??)

- he demonstrated his love BEFORE the confession! (‘unconditional love’)

v. 22 (‘but’) - he did not make his son ‘grovel’ [imagine the older brother!!] What is our reaction to apologies?

v. 28, 31 – appeals to and reaches out to the older son!

4. The Younger Son (The wanderer – lost outside his father’s house. Publicans and Sinners)

- discontented in his father’s house (but later had a great appreciation!)

- left the ‘truth’ [‘far country’ = outside Christ], looking for ‘greener pastures’!

v. 14 - felt the chastening hand of God. (The famine was not a coincidence!) (Heb. 12:5-11)

The issue is not IF we will sin, but how we will react after we sin!

v. 15-16 – he initially stubbornly tries to ‘make it on his own’ (citizen of country = the world. Promises relief but you end up eating pigs food!)

v. 17-20a – he has a spiritual awakening (It began after he was humbled!)

“arose” = “resurrection” – a new birth, a new creature (See v. 24)

KEY: “I have sinned” – until we recognize & confess our sins we stumble in darkness!

See Pro. 28:13 – confession necessary; Psa. 51:1-4 – our sins are against GOD

5. The Older Son (lost IN the house, Pharisees & Scribes,....you or me??!!)

v.25 – out at work in the field. Cp. Matt. 7:21-23 – works won’t be enough!

v. 26-28 – he is ANGRY! This is the opposite reaction to his Father

- **he had lived with his Father all those years, but he had NOT developed his Father’s characteristics! (love, mercy, kindness, ...)**

v. 29-30 – reveals his self-righteous attitude (cp. v.7 – did not think he needed repentance!)

Note: There is no mention of the younger son being involved with harlots, but his older brother IMPUTES this evil on the younger son! (cp. v. 13)

v. 31 – he had it ALL, but was still lost. It was ‘taken’ from him and given to another! (Because HE chose not to go in! His PRIDE kept him out. Did he say: “No way I’ll eat with the likes that man!”)

- Pharisees knew the truth, read the scriptures but acted contrary to God’s will! (pride, self-righteousness,...)

Imagine allowing pride to keep you from the Kingdom! Will you?