

The Father's Love

Luke 15:11-32

Theme: By understanding and seeking to be like Christ, men will become better fathers and leaders for their families.

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons.

¹² And 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.

¹³ Not 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.

Luke 15:11-32

¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.

¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:11-32

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!

¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.””

Luke 15:11-32

²⁰ And 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.

²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² But 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.

Luke 15:11-32

²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.

²⁴ For 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.

Luke 15:11-32

²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.

²⁷ And 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.'

²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,

Luke 15:11-32

²⁹ but 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.

³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

Luke 15:11-32

³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

I. The Offenses of the Younger Son (vs. 11-13)

Luke 15:11-13

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons.

¹² And 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.

¹³ Not 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.

“To son or wife, to brother or friend, give no power over yourself while you live; and give not your goods to another so as to ask for them again.”

-Sirach 33

“For a son to say such a thing to his father in that culture was tantamount to saying that he wished that his father was dead, since he was not entitled to his share of the inheritance (one-third of the estate, since his brother was the firstborn [Gen. 25:31–34; Deut. 21:17]) while his father was still alive. Since his father retained control and oversight of the estate as long as he lived (cf. v. 31), he stood in the way of his son’s plans...

...He wanted his freedom to leave the family and gratify his own selfish desires. Normally a son who shamed himself by making such a request would have been publicly shamed by his father, perhaps disinherited, or possibly even dismissed from the family and considered dead”

-John MacArthur, Luke 11–17, MacArthur New Testament Commentary

Jonah 1:1-3

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.”

3 But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

Luke 15:13

13 Not 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.

Ecclesiastes 2:10

10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

Ecclesiastes 2:11

11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

Hebrews 11:25

25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

I. The Offenses of the Younger Son
(vs. 11-13)

II. The Love of the Father
(vs. 14-24)

Luke 15:14-19

¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.

¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:14-19

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!

¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.””

“The younger son’s behavior exemplifies the sinner’s wretched desires and his predicament graphically illustrates the sinner’s desperate plight. To sin against God is to rebel against His fatherhood, disdain His honor and respect, spurn His love, and reject His will. Unrepentant sinners shun all responsibility and accountability to God. They deny Him his place, hate Him, wish He did not exist, refuse to love Him, and dishonor Him...

...They take the gifts He has given them and squander them in a life of self-indulgence, dissipation, and unrestrained lust. As a result they find themselves spiritually bankrupt, empty, destitute, with no one to help, nowhere to turn, and facing eternal death. And when all the self-help strategies fail, the sinner hits rock bottom. There is only one solution for those who, like this young man, find themselves in such a situation, which the next scene in the parable reveals.”

-John MacArthur, Luke 11–17, MacArthur New Testament Commentary

Luke 15:20-24

²⁰ And 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.

²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² But 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.

Luke 15:20-24

²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.

²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

- I. The Offenses of the Younger Son
(vs. 11-13)
- II. The Love of the Father (vs. 14-24)
- III. The Pride of the Older Son
(vs. 25-32)

Luke 15:25-32

25 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.

26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.

27 And 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.’

Luke 15:25-32

28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,

29 but 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.

30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

Luke 15:25-32

31 And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Luke 15:29

29 but 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.'

Luke 15:7

7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

1 Corinthians 15:57

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

