

The Parable of the Loving Father

Luke 15:11-32

I. How to pray for the prodigal's: (Luke 15:11-19)



1. For them not to die in their sins
2. For them to come to an end of themselves
3. For them to come to their right mind

Proverbs 14:14 The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways....

Vs. 17 Good News Translation says, "At last he came to his senses"

4. For them to experience grace. Never pray for disaster or heartache. They will experience enough of that on their own.
5. Ask God for wisdom and timing when reaching out to these people. I have learned it is best not to bail them out, coddle or enable them - negative circumstances have a way of getting people's attention. God doesn't cause catastrophe, but He can teach people through it.

II. Attitude of the Father: (Luke 15:20-24)

- Safely
- Acceptance
- Restoration
- Grace
- Compassion - He ran and kissed him

The graciousness of the father is emphasized more than the sinfulness of the son. Unlike the shepherd and the woman in the previous parables, the father did not go out to seek the son, but it was the memory of his father's goodness that brought the boy to repentance and forgiveness.

Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?



Representations of His Grace:

- Fatted calf = When we whole heartedly come back to God He gives us His best
- Ring = Restoration of son ship
- Best Robe = honored guest. He gives us His righteousness
- Sandals = He specializes in putting us back on our feet

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.

III. Attitude of the older brother: (Luke 15:25-32)

- Unforgiveness - Holding their past against them
- Jealousy
- Judgment
- Focus on the negative
- Condemnation - "You blew it. There is no hope for you"
- Anger, self righteousness, self pity



He was right in his head, but wrong in his heart!

The attitude of the older brother symbolizes the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law. They had the same attitude toward the sinners as **the older son** had toward the younger son. **The older brother**, coming home from working **in the field** and hearing what was happening, got **angry**. Similarly the Pharisees and teachers of the Law were angry with the message Jesus was proclaiming. They did not like the idea that people from outside their nation as well as outcasts and sinners in the nation were to be a part of the kingdom. Like the older son who **refused to go** to the feast, the Pharisees refused to enter the kingdom Jesus offered to the nation.

What kind of church will we choose to be?

One that reflects the grace our Father that gives hope to people or the Pharisaical older brother who did not want any part of a restoration ministry?

People have already been beat up in the world. They are looking for a different spirit in the Father's house

