

Parables Week 8

The Lost Son (s)

Luke 15:11-32 (NIV2011)

¹¹ *Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.*

¹² *The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.*

¹³ *“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.*

¹⁴ *After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.*

¹⁵ *So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.*

¹⁶ *He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.*

¹⁷ *“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!*

¹⁸ *I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.*

¹⁹ *I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’*

²⁰ *So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

²¹ *“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’*

²² *“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.*

²³ *Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.*

²⁴ *For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.*

²⁵ *“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.*

²⁶ *So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.*

²⁷ *‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’*

²⁸ *“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.*

²⁹ *But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.*

³⁰ *But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’*

³¹ *“ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.*

³² *But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this*

brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. ' "

This is a really well know parable. It is longer than most. It has been interpreted differently by different people and sometimes, well we try to get the simplest answer and miss some bits.

The parables follows other teaching, so it extends those thoughts but again, it is put in a way that people understood. This process of Inheritance usage before dad was deceased was actually very common.

I'm going to ask some questions. Pick an answer and we'll talk as we go.

What this parable about?

1. Greed
2. Forgiveness
3. Grace
4. Recognising all the above.

The answer is yes. It's about all that, but most scholars think the teaching specifically embellishes Jesus teaching on forgiveness.

Who was at fault?

1. The younger son – Silly behaviour
2. Older son – Jealously
3. Father – For not dying? For giving out his inheritance?
- 4.

The answer is yes yet the parable shows reality in all those aspects but infers we are all prone to some level of mistake.

Who was the bravest?

1. Younger son for going back
2. Dad for forgiving
3. Older son for standing his ground.

What kind of question is this? Well a big one. It leads to who do we most admire. Or as we talked about a few weeks ago, who do I want to be in the story? Or how about a slightly different version of the question. Who do I identify with most in my life?

So:

What do we learn from this?

1. Don't feed pigs.
2. Recognise when a good thing is going
3. Forgive when possible
4. Don't be jealous, don't hold a grudge even if you think you are right.
5. Found things are often more recognised than good things.

Is there more to learn from it. You bet. I honk you can learn something new just about every time you read that parable. Try it if you want. See if you read it everyday this week and see if you get something different every day. – Give it a go.

Bless ya