

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

Major application here is we are meant to be inheritors, not feeding pigs, the biggest demotion possible from a Jewish perspective.

Life feeding pigs

Genesis 3:8 – Just as the prodigal son is no longer with his father, sin caused Adam and Eve to hide. Sin breaks fellowship.

Psalms 106: 4-5, 14-15, 34-35 – The result of sin for the believer: trouble and leanness of your soul.

II Peter 2:7-8 – Living in sin as a believer will bring nothing but vexation, as we will clearly see through Solomon's life.

I Kings 11:1-9 – Solomon knew God and received blessings from God, but later in life, he forsook the wisdom God gave him and did everything he knew he should not have done. The outcome is catastrophic. He writes Ecclesiastes during this time of his life, creating a book that shows all believers what life looks like when you are focused on worldly pursuits rather than God's will for your life.

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 – worldly wisdom brings vexation.

Romans 16:19 – we should be simple of evil.

Philippians 4:8 – we should focus our thoughts on things that are right.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-3, 9-11, 15-20 – worldly pursuits amount to nothing.

Matthew 6:19-21 – Eternal pursuits last forever.

Ecclesiastes 3:18-22; 8:15 – Focus on this life lends one to focus on temporal pleasure, and there is fear for what will come after.

I Corinthians 15:32, 51-58 – Focus on eternity brings true hope and purpose.

I John 3:1-3 – Focus on heavenly purifies our perspective.

Psalms 17:15 – David doesn't fear death. Solomon is vexed by the thought of it because his focus is worldly

Philippians 1:22-24 – Paul does not fear death. He sees it as better for him to be with Christ, and that focus gives his life purpose.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 – a life not focused on God’s eternal plan makes everything meaningless and causes one to not want to be born at all. This is coming from a guy with everything the world craves: money, prestige and obviously no difficulty with the ladies.

Psalms 139:14 – Someone close to God understands the value of their creation by God.

Ecclesiastes 6:12 – Concerned about his legacy rather than just providing for his family

Proverbs 13:22 – a focus on God leads one to be content with the ability to provide for his own.

Ecclesiastes 7:25-26 – His view on women became distorted by his bad relationships. When you live under the sun in folly and madness, you attract others living the same way.

Proverbs 31:10-12, 26-31 – His view on women is clearly different here because he is focused on God’s plan, a godly woman rather than the sinful relationships he pursued later.

Ecclesiastes 7:2-3 – This is true for people under the sun, for people in sin or just not where God wants them to be.

Nehemiah 8:9-10 – Those right with God can enjoy the life they have in his family.

Galatians 6 – a fruit of the spirit is joy.

Solution: Repent and Renew Focus on God

I John 1:9 – God is a loving Father and willing to forgive.

II Peter 3:9 – God does not want people to perish in their sin and stupidity.

Colossians 3:2 – If your focus is here, you will not live out the book of Ecclesiastes.

Psalms 107:1-6 – a perfect description of what a believer in sin should understand and do.

Identity in Christ

Ephesians 1:5, 11-14, 17-18 – we have been adopted into God’s family and have an inheritance in Christ, great riches! Why would we wallow in sin with the pigs?

I John 3:1-2 – we will one day be like Christ to a certain degree. Focus on your inheritance will purify you from worldly pursuits.

Philippians 3:21 – once again, this flesh is only temporary for the believer. We have something much better in store. Focus on that.

Ephesians 3:6 – We are fellowheirs!

Ephesians 5:7-8 – Why wallow with the pigs? We are called to something much higher.

Conclusion

We are children of the king. We are meant to be inheritors, not wallowing in the mud with swine. The question you must ask yourself as a believer is do you want God's best for your life? What type of believer do you want to be? The Old Testament shows us three paths for believers:

Joshua 14:10 – Unlike Joshua, who focused on God and believed him, you can wander in the wilderness like Solomon in Ecclesiastes

Numbers 32:1-5 – You can partially believe God and be content as a believer not fully inheriting the promises available, like Gad and Reuben.

Or you can just be like Joshua and go in, be victorious and be an inheritor of the promises of God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - All in all, Solomon gets it right in the end. Why wait? Just believe God now and keep his commandments.