



Adopted into the Family (Part 1)

John 14:18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. **19** Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. - NLT



Let's take a moment to process what Leif and I discussed:

- The entire world is an orphanage, and our Heavenly Father wants His family back.”
- “Because we humans (EVEN CHRISTIANS) work so hard to be accepted. We always strive but never feel like we have done enough. We live with a vague feeling that we are not enough, that we are flawed.
- Even though, we are saved – we still do not feel accepted by God, nor do we feel we measure up to others.”
- Satan is determined to alienate anyone from God by deceiving them into taking on the same “orphan spirit” he did
- Satan wants people to think they are without family and spiritually homeless.
- “God, our Heavenly Father, will tell us who we are. He is the only one who can give our true identity
- Shame will tell us who we are not. Ultimately, all the world's problems are tied to the orphan spirit.”

Chosen before Time Began!

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **4** For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – NIV

Parable of the “Two Brothers”

- **Luke 15:11** To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. **12** The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. **13** “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. **14** About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. **15** He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. **16** The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.
- **17** “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! **18** I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, **19** and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’ - NLT

Parable of the “Two Brothers”

- **20** “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. **21** His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’
- **22** “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. **23** And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, **24** for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began. - NLT

Understanding the Younger Brother

1. The younger brother is an orphan by choice
2. He rebels because he is deceived by the temptations of this life. He is looking for sexual fulfillment outside of marriage, escape from reality through drinking and wild living.
3. He essentially told His father – “I wish you were dead.” “I want no relationship with you.” I just want my inheritance now.” (entitlement)
4. He brought shame to the father and to the family
5. He probably smelled of the pigs
6. He was broken and empty of all expectation
7. The son returns in full repentance

The Father's Heart

1. He saw His Son coming from far away and ran to Him
2. Bring the finest robe – The restoration of righteousness
 - The best robe was from the Father's collection
 - He covered his son's sinfulness and shame
 - All was forgotten and sonship was restored
3. A ring for His finger – Restoration of covenant and position as SON
 - Identity – often a ring to show family identity
 - Authority as a son to seal documents
 - A symbol of restored IDENTITY
4. Bring him sandals for his feet
 - Only the slaves went without shoes
 - The son had lost everything
 - The father would restore everything!

Parable of the “Two Brothers”

- The Elder Brother’s Story
- **Luke 15:25** “Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, **26** and he asked one of the servants what was going on. **27** ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.’
- **28** “The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, **29** but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. **30** Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’
- **31** “His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. **32** We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’” - NLT

Understanding the Elder Brother

1. The elder son seemed to have no communication or intimacy with the Father
2. The elder son was AN ORPHAN through spiritual deception – No awareness of his condition!
3. He lived in Father's House – but he had the heart of an orphan and not a son
 - The elder brother is angry – He has worked hard to earn his father's favor
 - He feels like he has been short-changed!
 - The elder brother sees His relationship with Father as a quid pro quo – I do things to get things
 - He sees his brother who did no work get's immense love & blessing! - Unfair
4. IN FACT: the elder son always had the father's favor and love
 - All the father had was his – He never asked. There was no communication and relationship.
5. The elder son worked for love rather than working from love
 - God invites us into intimacy with Him
 - He calls us to work with HIM and not for Him
 - When intimacy is there – work is a joy!
 - The elder son found his identity in his work and not in the Father
6. Comparison and resentment toward others makes us weary and unhappy
 - Weariness from working with wrong motives

The Father's Heart

- **31** “His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. **32** We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”
 - One of the saddest things – The elder brother could not celebrate His brothers homecoming
 - Of course Jesus is aiming this at the Jewish leaders who thought sinners did not deserve Jesus’ time and love
 - Are we in danger of being like the elder brother?
 - Do we despise sinners because they still smell like the pigs?
 - We can resent others for their sinfulness and not see the sin of our own heart
- Great Danger – Slaving away for our Heavenly Father but having no intimacy with Him: Matthew 7: **21** “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. **22** On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ **23** But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

Spirit of Adoption demolishes the “orphan spirit”

- **Romans 8:14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
- **15** So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” **16** For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. **17** And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory . . .
- **22** For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **23** And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.- NLT
- The BIG question – Are you walking in fear? Or, in the confidence of a son or daughter adopted through the Lord Jesus Christ?

