

The Gospel of Luke: A Tale of an Amazing Father (Luke 15)

1. The Father's Love for Younger Brother – vs. 11-24 (the sinners... vs. 1-2)

- A. The Son's Dishonor – Jesus paints a picture of an awful horrendous sinner; prodigal = wasteful
1. **His _____**: give me the share of the estate
*out of birth order, no love nor gratitude for father's honor/dignity = I wish you were dead!
*Give me what is mine! *inheritance meant responsibility for future of family
*vs. 24 – son of mine was dead... normally publicly beaten, then a funeral held, seen as dead
 2. **His _____**: *not many days later...
*couldn't get until father died, unless he sold the futures, hedging, commodities for CHEAP!
*he gives away futures for family for dirt, goes away to Gentile land, spends on prostitutes
 3. **His total _____ and degradation**: **Severe Famine (vs. 14)* 2Kings, women ate afterbirth, eat own children; sell children to slavery, donkey's head and dove's dung sold for a lot of money!
*spent all money, so hired himself, means glued/stuck himself to man of wealth – sent to pigs
*pigs ate carob pods people could not eat, so he longed to eat the pig food! (*he's a Jew!*)
 4. **His _____**: he comes to his senses, sees his total depravity, literally my sins heap to heavens; knows what he deserves, retribution, no excuses!
*but remembers his father's generosity and kindness even to hired servants (day worker) – goes home to be low class servant, pay all back
- B. The Father's Love – vs. 20-24 – father could legally beat him publicly, make him pay back all owed!
1. **His _____**: he's out looking, sees him way off and runs to him – HUGE shameful act!
*embraces him – out of deep love and to absorb the beating from village
 2. **His _____**: father's best robe, ring used to sign documents/authority, sandals – slaves, workers were barefoot, only owners and their sons wore sandals; fattened calf – for *great celebration!*
- C. The Son's Response and Redemption - *father gives full privileges, rights, honor, full restoration

2. The Father's Love for Older Brother – vs. 25-32 (represents Pharisees/Scribes)

- A. The Son's Dishonor (responsible to organize parties, no one came to get him, father knew his hate)
1. **His hatred for _____** – he becomes angry, won't go in, furious that brother is accepted
 2. **His hatred for _____** – he let the brother do the above, did not fight for father's honor
*makes father come out to him (*vs. 28*) no title of honor, just, "*Look!*" ***HUGE dishonor!**
**vs. 29* – so many years, literally – I've been your slave; no love, only hate!
*never neglected one command – arrogant, prideful, self-righteous; sees self as perfect, hypocrite
*you never gave me a young goat for my friends – not family – he was saying, "how dare you be so shameful, sinful and evil; you need my forgiveness
*he had just been using the father his whole life to get father's wealth; totally focused on self!
- B. The Father's Love – humbles himself, comes out to son, celebration was for the Father! **Eph 2:5-7*
*He pleads with older son, *vs. 31* – My son; My child, endearing, come to celebration, all I have is yours
- C. The Son's Response (What's the end of the story?)
*Jesus lets the Pharisees write the end of the story, and not long after this, they would finish the story.

3. The Father's Amazing Love for You (Which Brother/Son are You?)

- A. Maybe you have done terrible things in your life and think they are too bad for God to forgive you –
- B.** Our society – I want to be free from God and His rules and do what I want!!!
- C. The Older Brother – is full of hate, he hates grace and has no room for love, he hides his great sin within, but it is worse than the younger brother's! **1 John 4:19-21*
*He does good deeds but with selfish motives, and they repulse God! **Isaiah 64:6*