

G R O W T H N O T E S

Scriptures: Luke 15:11-32

Series:

ONE MATTERS - PART

Message:

“HOW TO FIND LOST FAMILY!”

Luke 15:17 NIV: “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!’

SERIES SUMMARY:

***EVERYONE* matters to God—and therefore—everyone should matter to us!**

***AND*—No matter how lost you are—you still matter to God!**

***BUT*—The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that God still saves, heals, blesses, and delivers!**

- ***‘Misfits’, tax collectors, sinners, and anyone who did not submit to their traditions that were attached to the laws of God, etc., were drawn to Jesus—and NOT driven from Him!***
- ***They gathered because they wanted to hear the words that Jesus spoke;***
- ***The ‘down and out’—AND—the ‘up and in’—both gathered around Jesus Christ!***

Luke 14:35: “...Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

- *In today’s message Jesus depicts the action and reaction of a parent whose child has lost the child’s way.*
- *The parent—in this story—wants the parent’s child back—because of their relationship.*
- *What do you do when you’ve made a mess of your life?*
- *Let God straighten your life out!*
- *The Prodigal Son wasn’t satisfied to have the benefits of the house—he wanted to have CONTROL—of the house!*

- *The Prodigal Son was not greedy for money—he was thirsty for power—so he asked his father for his inheritance!*
- *Some people get blessed and it makes them humbler—and grateful—and useful!*
- *BUT—others get one good blessing—and lose their minds!*
- *The Prodigal Son is already blessed— BUT—he’s insecure—and he’s restless!*

Jesus said, in Luke 12:15—“A person’s life does not consist in the abundance of things they have!

- *You are blessed because God has given you the gift of life!*
- *In his father’s house he was shielded and protected—BUT—then his own*

dysfunction—the stuff that’s true about you—that you won’t admit to you—is true about you!

- *And the enemy of your soul—the adversary of our advance—always wants to get you and me—like this boy—out of the house—out of the place of covenant—out of the place upon which God’s promises are built!*
- *BUT—I wanna encourage you to **STAY IN THE HOUSE!***

1. THE PRODIGAL SON’S MESS HAD A TRACEABLE CAUSE!

3 INSIGHTS ON THE CAUSE OF HIS MESS

- 1. DISCONTENT.**
- 2. DESIRE.**

3. DECEPTION.

- *The Prodigal Son makes a decision—“Father, give me my share of the inheritance that falls to me—he was the younger son!”*
- *With a broken heart, the father complies because he, like God, and this is the teaching of the text—wants a relationship with us that is based on our free will!*

2. THE PRODIGAL SON’S MESS HAD A TREMENDOUS COST!

- *THE COST IS—“SIN!”—SELF—INFLICTED—NONSENSE!*
- *MEANING—The stuff you do to yourself—to tear up your own life!*

*Apostle Matthew Norwood, Th. D., Bishop of the House
Monte E. Norwood, D. Min., Senior Pastor*

- *Sin will always take you further than you planned to go!*
- *Sin will keep you longer than you planned to stay!*
- *Sin will cost you more than you intended to pay!*
- *Your messes will ruin your resources!*
- *Sin will magnify your mistakes!*
- *Sin will violate your values!*

Luke 15:14 says—“...When he had spent everything—a severe famine occurred in that country—and he began to be in need!

In John 10:10—Jesus said—“The thief comes to steal—to kill—and to destroy!

3. YOUR MESS HAS A TRANSFORMING CURE!

- *You don't have to stay where you are—because God specializes in doing miraculous stuff!*

In order for God to work miracles and do miracles for you:

- *You have to come to your senses (Luke 15:17)!*

THE BOTTOM LINE

**WE ALWAYS PAY THE HIGHEST PRICE—
FOR THE LOWEST LIFE!**

1 Corinthians 13—Says—“There is no temptation, but such as is common to us—BUT God is faithful—who with the temptation—will provide a way of escape—that you might be able to bear it!

- *You’ve got to change your mind (REPENT)!*
- *That’s what it means to repent—it’s the Greek word—“Metanoia”—and it means to change your mind—and change your direction!”*
- *The Prodigal Son is out of fellowship—but not out of relationship!*

2 Peter 3:9, Says—“God is not slack concerning God’s promises—as humankind counts slackness—BUT—God is longsuffering toward us—NOT willing that any should perish—BUT—that all should come unto repentance!

4. YOU GET TO CELEBRATE GOD’S RESTORATION!

- **THE BOY LEFT THE FATHER’S HOUSE—BUT—HE WAS NEVER OUT OF THE FATHER’S HEART!**
- *AND—even when we walk away from God’s House—we’re never out of God’s heart!*
- *God spoke through the prophet—and God said—“You are so important to me—I have tattooed you on My Hand (Isaiah 49:16)!*
- **AND—IF YOU’RE LOST—GOD IS LOOKING FOR YOU!**

My Notes: _____



Apostle Matthew Norwood, Th. D., Bishop of the House
Monte E. Norwood, D. Min., Senior Pastor
