

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE NOTES

WOMEN IN THE WORD

Fellowship Bible Church

Our Position in Christ Revealed

Lesson 4 - Example from the Prodigal Son

March 5, 2019

Lost Things, Found

Luke 15:1-2

Jesus' audience were two groups of people - Tax collectors & sinners and also the Scribes and Pharisees.

Luke 15:3-7

Parable of the lost sheep.

Message to His audience - "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

Who "needs no repentance"? He was referring to those who "think" they need no repentance. He was speaking of the Scribes and Pharisees.

Luke 15:8-10

Parable of the lost coin.

Message to His audience - "there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Two Lost Sons.

Luke 15:11-32

This story could easily represent a picture of salvation. But since we are talking about our Position in Christ, we are going to look at this account in the light of how God sees us, His children.

The Younger Son

Luke 15:11-12

Asking for his inheritance early is like wishing his father dead.

Younger Son mentality - He wants the father's things. Not Relationship.

Sometimes that's what we want from God. We want physical blessings, health, enjoyment, - "the good life" - instead of God Himself.

Older brother did not oppose this suggestion. The older brother also wanted the father's things but he was more subtle about it.

Luke 15:13-16

He went off and used his father's gifts to find fulfillment in other things. Sinful things. When hardship came, those things could not rescue him.

Luke 15:17-19

He came to his senses and decided to go back to his father. He was thinking that His father would not take him back as a son. So he decided to go back and ask to be a hired servant, a man who works for his wages and works for his position.

Luke 15:20-21

He does not even wait to see if the son's heart has changed before he runs out to greet him. The son has never ceased being a son, in the father's eyes.

When sin in our life brings about repentance, let's not return to the father with the mentality as hired servants. You cannot earn your place as a child of God and you cannot work to keep your place as a child of God.

Luke 15:22-24

He was given a robe and ring and shoes. The fattened calf was killed for a feast.

#1 The father kisses his son on the neck as a custom of greeting and an expression of forgiveness.

#2 The father gives the younger son the best robe, a ring and sandals.

Collectively, the items represented the father's best for his son. The ROBE belonged to his father, so this was symbolic of the father honoring the son and treating him like royalty and giving him the clothes off his own back.

The RING represents the father's authority and a symbol of reinstatement to sonship.

The SHOES illustrate that the son is not considered a slave or a servant any longer. Slaves and servants didn't wear shoes but would go barefooted.

#3 A fatted calf was killed to celebrate. Meat was not a part of the daily diet. It was normally reserved for special celebrations.

This forgiveness was NOT free. It was free to the younger son, but it cost the father greatly!

The Older Son

Luke 15:25-32

Older son working hard and doing the right things. What was his motivation? Same as the younger son.... The father's things.

He was angry and compared what he had received with what the younger brother was getting from the father.

The older brother felt he deserved more for his right living. Right living can become more important to us than God himself.

We can have "older brother" thinking when we expect that right living EARNs us our place in the family and earns us certain things from God. God can become our vending machine and our vending machine token is right living.

Verse 28 - Notice the father comes out to him just like he did the younger son. He seeks him out.

The Older son was always with the father, but this was not enough for the older son. Relationship was not what he was after it was the father's goods.

Both the worldly life of sensual pleasure and the religious life of ethical strictness fail to give the human heart what it is seeking. Neither approach to life is adequate. Only God Himself can fill the deepest desires of the human heart.

God wants us all to join around the feast and enter into celebration with Him. This "feast" (communing with God) satisfies both our spiritual "nourishment" as well as spiritual "pleasure".

One day there is another feast. All believers will attend the marriage supper of the Lamb, and each one of us will be there because we have been forgiven much.

Revelation 19:6-9. Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder:

"Praise the LORD!

For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

*7 Let us be glad and rejoice,
and let us give honor to him.*

*For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb,
and his bride has prepared herself.*

8 She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear."

For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people.

9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."