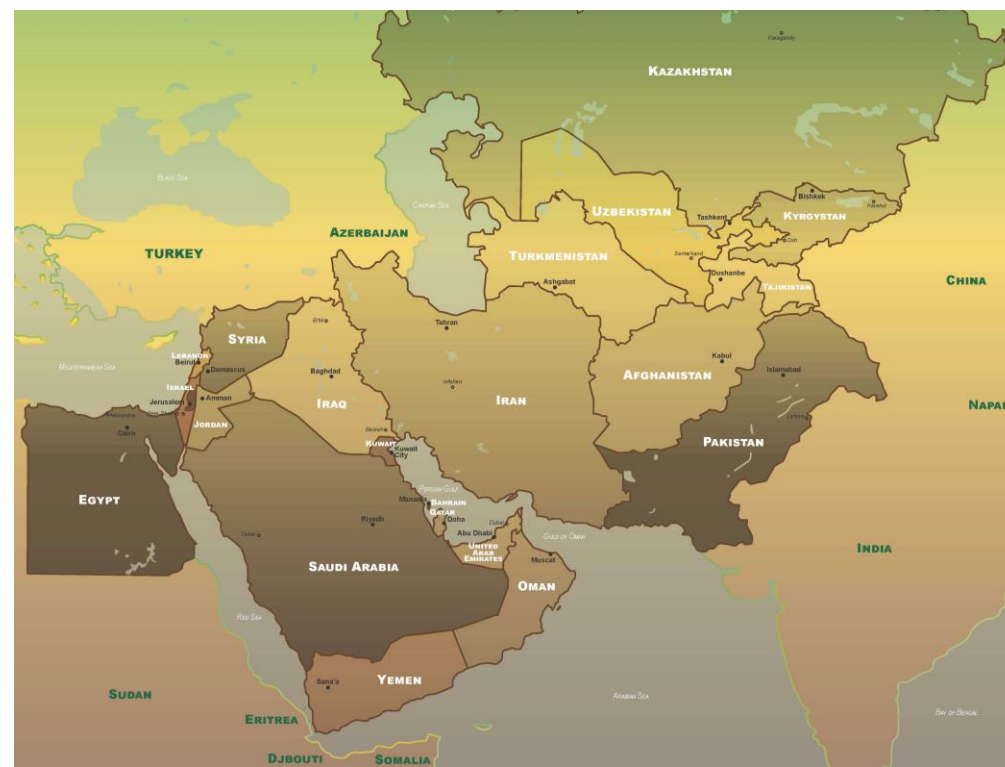


The World's Greatest Dad

Luke 15:11-32

Chaplain Argle Smith



The Gospel According to Luke

Jesus as The New Moses

- Luke 1-8
- Jesus Ushers in God's Kingdom through Spiritual Liberation
- The Kingdom is Upside Down (Outcasts, Unclean, Sinners, Gentiles, Women)
- The Requirements to Enter: Repentance and Surrender/Humility

Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem/Cross

- Luke 9-19 (See 9:51)
- Jesus Ushers in God's Kingdom through Spiritual Liberation
- Jesus leads the people through his journey, demonstrating the Kingdom's power and teaching.

Arrival & Rejection of The New King

- Luke 19-24
- Rejection by the Leaders
- Accepted by a Thief on a Cross
- The Prophet/Priest/King is Vindicated through the Cross
- God's Forgiveness is for All Nations

Luke 15—Three Lost Parables

Parables

- Fictional Story to Convey Reality
- Teach Moral Truths/Principles or...
- To Reveal the Unknown

All Three

- Are Lost (v. 6, 9, 24)
- Represent People (15:7,10)
- **Have Immense Value to God**
- Have Different Ways of Being Found

Setting

- Jesus is Addressing the Religious Leaders
- Jesus Hangs & Eats with Sinners, Outcasts, Women, & The Unclean

A Lost Sheep

- Luke 15:1-7
- Does Not Know The Way Home / Knows It's Lost
- **Needs** to be Saved from Wilderness

A Lost Coin

- Luke 15:8-10
- Does Not Know It Is Lost
- **Needs** Located

A Lost Son

- Luke 15:11-32
- Knows The Way Home
- **Needs** to Hit Rock Bottom

To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A **man** had two sons. 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. (Luke 15:11-12, NLT Throughout)

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God, I Wish You Were Dead!

1. Most Americans: Those who know the truth about God but choose their own way (**Idolatry One—Becomes a god—The Autonomous Self**)
2. Deconstructionists: Individuals who systematically examine and dismantle their inherited religious beliefs, often questioning or rejecting traditional doctrines, cultural practices, or institutional authority. (**Idolatry Two—Creates a new shiny god—Religious Reconstruction**)
3. Scholastic Atheists: Grew up in fundamentalist churches to discover they were taught a false Gospel. (**Idolatry Three—Throws Baby out with the bath water—Tries to Kill God—Deconversion Into Atheism**)

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God, I Wish You Were Dead Causes!

1. Religious Trauma: Spiritual Abuse, Authoritarian Church Leadership, and Exclusivism—Only We Are Correct
2. Social & Moral Conflict: How the Church Responds to...Weaponized Politics, LGBT Culture, Historical Injustice, etc.
3. Intellectual Doubt: Stemming from legalism and false doctrine that denies sincere questioning.
4. Spiritual Blindness: Selfishness, Pride, Look at the Shiny Object

“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**. About the time his **money ran out**, a **great famine** swept over the land, and he **began to starve**. (Luke 15:13-14)

God, I Wish You Were Dead *results in!*

1. He Blew What He was Given.
2. He Dried Up His Resources
3. Additional Resources Dried UP
4. He Began To Starve

Death!



He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to **feed the pigs**. 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**. (Luke 15:15-16)

God, I Wish You Were Dead results in!

1. He Blew What He was Given.
2. He Dried Up His Resources
3. Additional Resources Dried UP
4. He Began To Starve
5. He Was Forced to Survive...
6. No One Rescued Him... not even God

Death!



“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! (Luke 15:17)**

Coming to Your Senses

1. Understanding you are headed for destruction. Deconstruction leads to your destruction.
2. Remembering home. “Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” (Proverbs 22:6)
3. Choosing to become a slave to a God who is love.

“I will go home to my father and say, **“Father, I have sinned** against both heaven and you, and **I am no longer worthy** of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.” **So he returned** home to his father.
(Luke 15:18-20a)

Coming to Your Senses

1. Understanding you are headed for destruction. Deconstruction leads to your destruction.
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3. Choosing to become a slave to a God who is love.
4. **Contrite Spirit—Humility**
5. **Repentance**
6. **Confession**

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. (Luke 15:20b)

The Father's Response

- 1. God sees you, and he knows. (He never took his eyes off you.)**
- 2. God is filled with love and compassion because that's who he is.**
- 3. God runs to meet you. "Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world." (James 4:8)**
- 4. God embraces and loves you.**

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... (Luke 15:21)

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- 4. God embraces and loves you.**
- 5. God knows your heart before you speak the words.**
- 6. Heaven Celebrates**

“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. And **kill the calf we have been fattening**. We must **celebrate** with a feast, 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. (Luke 15:22-24)

In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away! (Luke 15:7)

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the **fields working**. When he returned home, **he heard music** and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. ‘**Your brother is back**,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.’

“The older brother was **angry** and wouldn’t go in. **His father came out and begged him**, 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. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’ (Luke 15:25-30)

Both Sons Believed a Lie About Their Father

- **Lie of the younger:** I have to **earn** my Father's Love through service.
- **Lie of the Older:** I have to keep on **earning** my Father's Love through service.
- **Lie of the Younger:** I have to regain my father's love through service.
- **Truth:** You can never earn love from a God who is Love. He only gives from his love.
- **Truth:** When you submit to the slavery of God, you see you've become a child of God.
- **Truth:** Everything God has is yours, regardless of what you do.

The Kingdom of God is Yours

“His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, **you have always stayed** by me, and **everything I have is yours**. 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!’ (Luke 15:31-32)