LOADED STORIES #6

\* LUKE 15:11-32

### DRAMA ON THE FARM.

### 11Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.

Luke 15:11

### 1. THE YOUNGER SON IS HAS A <u>LICENTIOUS HEART</u>.

HATE RULES.

### 2. THE OLDER SON HAS A LEGALISTIC HEART.

OBSESSED WITH RULES + DON'T LOVE PEOPLE.

12The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

Luke 15:12

Do you think that when people get religious, devoted, and responsible- that <u>now</u> everything they touch turns to gold, and they live problem free, suffering free, and God makes it extra obvious that they are his highly favored kids?

...or is it pretty "even"?

For he gives his sunlight to **both** the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust **alike**. (Matthew 5:54)

"...in this world you will have <u>tribulation</u>" (John 16:33).

"For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness." (Psalm 73:3).

"...until I learned of their destination..." (Psalm 73:17)



THE HIGHWAY OF LICENTIOUSNESS AND RELIGIOSITY DOES NOT END WELL.

### IS THERE A BETTER WAY?

"I AM THE WAY..." - JESUS

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## THE WAY OF JESUS IS LIVING FROM GOD'S HEART.

### LOVE MEANS...

- GRIEF
- CONFLICT RESOLUTION
- NOT EASY
- BUT GOD IS LOVE (John 4:18)

13"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

## THE FARM CONSISTED OF A PERFECT FATHER AND AN IMPERFECT BROTHER.

JUST LIKE CHURCH...

#### HOW DID THE YOUNGER BROTHER GET BACK HOME?

TRACKS?

VEHICLES?

JOIN US FOR FRESH START!

IT'S A TRACK

IT'S A VEHICLE.

17"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! 18I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20So he got up and went to his father.

Luke 15:17-19

## WHEN WE ARE BITTER WE ONLY SEE THROUGH A NEGATIVE LENS.

# GOD'S HEART IS TO RE-QUALIFY THE DISQUALIFIED AND FOR RESTORATION, NOT DEMOTION.

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"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Luke 15:20

### LUKE 11:13 "HOW MUCH MORE"

"if you being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more, will your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to them who ask..."

### JAMES 4:8 "DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU"

There is nothing he did to earn those affections.

He just brought himself into close enough proximity to experience them.

21"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

Luke 15:21

### WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD BY HIS GRACE, NOT OUR PERFORMANCE.

"Oh what love the Father has lavished upon us, that we should be called children of God" (1 John 3:1).

22"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

Luke 15:22

### TAKE NOTE OF THE PROGRESSION.

- 1. The hug speaks of unconditional love of God.
- 2. The robe speaks of God's righteousness.
- 3. The ring speaks of God's power.
- 4. The sandals speak of a new lifestyle.

23Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:23-24

25"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

LUKE 15:25-27

28"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

29But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you *never* gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.

30But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

# GOSSIP: ASSUMING YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED OR IS GOING ON AND STATING AS IF IT IS A FACT.

#### THE HEART OF THE FATHER VERSUS THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT.

- The Religious spirit demands perfection.
- The Father appreciates the progress.
- The Religious spirit criticizes the lack of perfection.
- The Father celebrates the progress.

31" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

LUKE 15:31-32

### GOD IS SAYING THROUGH THIS PARABLE......

I WANT YOU TO SHA	ARE	 	 •••
MY HEART		 	 
M			
MY PASSION		 	
M	Y PRIORITIES		