

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

The Rejection of the Younger Lost Son

Luke 15:11-24

Slide 2:

Luke 15:11-24 (ESV)

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." ' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Slide 3:

Prodigal = Reckless and wasteful use of resources

Slide 4:

I. The Younger Rejecting Son (You?)

II. The Older Self-Righteous Son (You?)

III. The Vulnerable Loving Father (You?)

Slide 5:

The Younger Son

1) The Choice to Reject

2) The Way of Rejection

3) The Return to the Father

Slide 6:

REJECTION

a) Radical, disrespectful act of individualism

Slide 7:

REJECTION

- a) Radical, disrespectful act of individualism
- b) Divorce from the family (wishing the death of his father)

Slide 8:

The son wants some of the tangible blessings that have come from the Father's way of life... while rejecting the Father's way of life.

Slide 9:

REJECTION

- a) Radical, disrespectful act of individualism
- b) Divorce from the family (wishing the death of his father)
- c) The Father grants the wish and does not protect his estate

Slide 10:

"Father, give me the share of property (ousias) that is coming to me." And he divided his property (bios) between them.

ousias = goods

bios = life

Slide 11:

THE WAY OF REJECTION

It begins mentally (The "distant country" concept)

We always leave mentally before we leave physically

Slide 12:

We are designed to give over power to someone else to tell us who we are

Slide 13:

When we try to "find ourselves" outside of the Father, the object of our worship is always conditional.

Slide 14:

THE RETURN

An awakening to the problem

Slide 15:

The hardest thing to kill is the thing that feels like it's keeping us alive...ourselves.

Slide 16:

The Gospel is always horrible news before it's Good News

Slide 17:

The son, by rehearsing his plan, and not assuming his sonship, is showing that he has truly repented. He wants to make an appeal for limited restitution.

Slide 18:
The Father shows His legs!

Slide 19:
Can we see ourselves?
Can we see the Savior?

Slide 20:
Ephesians 2:4-6 (ESV)
But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Luke 15:11-24. What do you see in the relationship between the younger son and his Father? What stands out to you? What questions would you have about the text or the culture?
2. Why does the younger son reject the Father? What do you think he feels about the land and the father's way of life?
3. In what way is sin (all sin) "wishing the Father dead?"
4. What is so attractive about the vision of a "distant land?" Why does that speak to our hearts so much? Why do you think the younger son went there?
5. What do you think about the statement that "we are designed to give power to someone else to tell us who we are." If true, what does that mean for us? Is it possible to NOT worship something, or someone?
6. Why is the Gospel horrible news before Good News? Is it possible to accept forgiveness without being awakened to our lostness?
7. In what ways did Jesus become the rejecting younger son?
8. Prayer and praise