

MAY 16, 2022

PULL UP A CHAIR

Our families, often include our experience of broken relationships, broken hearts, and even our sense of personal brokenness. The good news of the gospel is that our Heavenly Father has a redemptive and restorative pathway for us when life is broken.

This past week Pastor Mark walked us through the well-known parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15. He pointed out several key aspects of this pathway to healing by examining the perspective of the younger son, the father, and the older son.

READ: LUKE 15:1-2

1. These verses set the context for Jesus telling three parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost sons. (15:3-32)
What does this context add to your understanding and interpretation of these parables? Would you resent Jesus welcoming those sinners today?

READ: LUKE 15:11-19

2. After bad choices led the younger brother to rock bottom, he finally reached a point of repentance and confession. (v17-18). Now read **Psalm 51:1-9** which is David's confession of sin after his adultery with Bathsheba. Why is it so difficult for us to reach this level of ownership and repentance for our sinful choices?

READ LUKE 15:20-24

3. Now we see the true heart of the father in Jesus' parable, a heart that represents the heart of our Heavenly Father. His heart toward us is one of compassion and forgiveness (20-22). Compare this to the heart of Jesus found in **Matthew 9:35-36**. Was there a time in your life that you were feeling broken and experienced the loving compassion of God?

READ LUKE 15:25-32

4. The older brother, who represents the Pharisees and Scribes (see 15:1-2), experiences his unique kind of brokenness because of his pride and unrepentant heart. Sadly, the story ends with him still refusing to enter the celebration and experience the joy and healing that the father's love invites. Pride or self-righteousness can keep us stuck and separated from the Heavenly Father's love. Have you had prolonged seasons of this being true in your life?

DIGGING DEEPER

- There are 2 kinds of lostness and brokenness. The younger brother's kind comes from "wild living" being far from God while the older brother's kind is rooted in self-centered, religious pride. Which do you most identify with?
- The Father's compassionate, healing love can either be accepted or rejected. Which camp are you living in these days? Why do you chose to live there?