

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost Boy's Pt. 3 / 11.12.22

I. INTRODUCTION (Luke 15:22-24)

- A. For the last three weeks we've been spending time looking at three of Jesus' parables in **Luke 15**. First we looked at the story of the Shepherd and the lost sheep. Then we looked at the women, and the lost coin. And last week, we started the story of two sons, one younger and one older, and the father.
- B. It's important that we keep in context who Jesus is talking to; the Pharisee's and the Scribes.
 - 1. As Jesus told the story of the younger son, there were four gasps from the Pharisee's and Scribes;
 - a. *Give me my portion of goods | He wasted his possessions in gentile land | Attached to a gentile and feeding swine | The Father ran to embrace the son*

II. THE RECEPTION OF ALL RECEPTIONS (Luke 15:22-24)

- A. **Luke 15:22** "But the father said to his servants, bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet."
 - 1. The younger son has returned home, the father ran to meet him, embraced, and the son only got half of his prepared speech out of his mouth, because it says, "BUT THE FATHER..."
 - 2. Beloved, this is what matters most, what the Father says. It's essential for us to repent, which the son has done, but we don't have to "*do any punishment time*" before we are off the hook. That's called works, God only deals in grace, unmerited favor.
 - a. We can only imagine what the Pharisee's and Scribes are thinking. These religious leaders have imploded. In their understanding of God and religion, what this father has just done, is equally as shameful as what this son put his father through.
 - b. In their worldview there's no place for this type of reception. There's no place for this kind of love. There's no place for this type of reckless spending, this wasteful demonstration of love for a wayward son.
 - c. Beloved, what would it be like to live in a religious world that thought this way? That shamed repentant sinners when they returned home to their father. To be a people that were angry with how God spends His love!
 - 3. But remember, the father has already ran to meet him, embraced him and kissed him all over before the younger son got his speech out. **THE FATHER SAID...THE FATHER HAS ALREADY RESTORED HIM!**
 - B. "...the father said to his servants, bring out the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet."
 - 1. The father is practicing something called, "*Usufruct*." This is a legal term, where the father, who is the head of the estate, while still alive, can exercise control over his possessions, including what he has already committed to the older son. The father is giving some of the older son's portion back to the younger son.
 - 2. The father essentially lays claim to the possessions of the older son, giving some right again, to the younger son!
 - a. Bring Out The Best Robe—The fathers servants are equally out of breath, having followed the father when he met the son. And now the father is treating this younger son like royalty, like a fully vested son.
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1. The father demands the servants bring out the best robe. The word best means *first, like the first of all the garments you possess*. Not the first you can find, *but the first in rank, in value, and order*. It's the type of robe a king would wear, a robe that most likely belonged to the father himself.
 2. You might think that the father would say, "*Hey, son, I'm so glad your home. I have a plan, but it will need some time to develop. Before we are able to put the robe on you, and officially celebrate you will need to take a shower, get your haircut, get cleaned up, and then, once your clean we can celebrate.*"
 3. Some translations use the word "quickly" as in *bring it out now, fast, hastily, speedily, without delay*. The father is urgent. There's no plan, there's no wasting time, his once dead son is home!
 - i. But is this not what God does for us when we come to Him? We are also restored, not over time, not in the process, but suddenly, in a moment, in an instant the grace of God is given to us.
- b. And Put A Ring On His Finger—This is the families signet ring. This is the father instant reinstatement of the son back to his original position among the family, as an acting member with authority. As soon as he repents, he's reinstated.
1. This ring, most likely with the family crest on it, or a family logo meant that he could sign documents, that he could exercise authority on behalf of the family.
 2. Friends, when we repent, we don't have to punish ourselves in "time out" for a while, before God can use us. MIKE BICKLE—*Press delete*
 3. As soon as the son repented, he was reclothed, reinstated, and restored to the family, in full sonship.
- c. And Put Sandals On His Feet—Slaves, servants and hired workers all went barefoot, only royalty, or sons, in that day wore shoes.
1. In the son's destitution, in his runaway to a gentile land, he ended up barefoot. His dirty feet represented where he'd been in his rebellion, but these new sandals represented his future, a path that God Himself was placing him on.
 2. The Pharisees and the Scribes were fully aware of what was happening; The wayward lad was being restored into full sonship! Unthinkable in their minds.
- C. **Luke 15:23-24** "*And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry.*"
1. The fatted calf was hand raised for only the finest of occasions, like a family wedding, like the older sons wedding day. This was an animal large enough to feed over 200 people, so it's clear that the whole city is joining in on this feast.
 - a. Remember what happened when the Shepherd came home with the one lost sheep? Remember what happened with the women found her lost silver coin? They invited everyone to come celebrate with them.
 - b. This father is now demonstrating what all of heaven is currently doing around those that are seated with Christ, *the tax collectors, and sinners*.
 2. Well, why throw this celebration? Over the son's repentance? Kind of. It's a celebration of the father, it's a celebration of the father's love. The feast honors the father. It's the father who's given back the son's life. It's the father who's restored him to full sonship. This is a celebration of the father's grace and mercy.
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3. The father is saying, *“Son, when you left home, I had no idea what happened to you. You were assumed dead by most people, or very lost, never to return home at the least. This secret sorrow that I bore day in and day out on the porch was almost more than I could take at times. But then, there you came, making the long trek home. My son, who was once dead, is full of life again.”*
4. Well, this is a party that this village will never forget. It's a party catered by the reckless, spendthrift, extravagant love of the Father. There's enough meat for the entire city, drinks galore, room at the tables. It's a party for the ages.
5. Beloved, remember, this is the celebration of God NOT over a stadium of people who come to faith, or a whole region, or city, this is the celebration of God over ONE WAYWARD SON, OVER ONE WAYWARD DAUGHTER WHO COMES HOME!

III. THREE CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

A. We Don't Have To Clean Ourselves Up To Come Before The Father

1. The son came in from a long journey in a distant Gentile land, after losing everything, and trying to feed with the pigs, and it was in this state that the father embraced him, loved him, kissed him, and clothed him.
2. If your far from Christ today, He's simply calling you to come, just as you are, like you are right now.
3. And if you've been in Christ, but there's things in your life and need to come out of the dark and into the light, you don't need to hide, you don't need to cover yourself up with fig leaves. Come to Him, talk to Him, pour your heart out before Him, and if you say, I've done it 100 times already, let today be 101.

B. Everything That The Son Desired In A Faraway Place, Outside Of His Father's Authority, He Found At Home

1. The son's pursuit of clothes (robe), jewelry (ring), and a bright future (sandals), big meals, extravagant eating, friends, and lavish love, wasn't found in rebellion and sin in gentile land, it was found in his fathers house.
2. So many in God's family go out chasing this that and the other in hope it will satisfy, forgetting that the table God has spread for us, in His house has all that we need.
3. It's my belief that the local Church, the house of God has everything that we need.

C. God Is Eager To Reconcile Us To Himself, Almost Impatient

1. The father ran towards the son, but before that he was looking towards the horizon, waiting, hoping, and desiring that his youngest boy would come home.
2. And now, he's saying, *“Hurry, GET THE ROBE, GET THE RING, GET THE SANDALS, BUTCHER THE FATTED CALF! Hurry up, why are you walking. Run, do it now!”*