

THE PRODIGAL GOD
He Came To His Senses
Luke 15:11-20
Week 3 May 19, 2024
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This parable is about how God changes us and about how God desires us to be a new community, a new society, living in new relationships.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE TO COMMUNITY

If you do not repent, there is nothing God can do for you.

The world says:

1. Repentance is a sign of weakness.
2. Repentance is an experience of disempowerment.
3. It is an aberration you hope never or hardly happens.

The Bible says:

1. Repentance is a sign of strength.
2. Repentance is an experience of liberation.
3. It should happen all the time.

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

2 Corinthians 7:10 NIV

II. THE ANATOMY OF REPENTANCE

1. He Came To His Senses
2. He Responded Correctly
“I have sinned against heaven and you.” This is vertical.
3. Then he says I have sinned against you. This is horizontal.

III. THE KEY TO REPENTANCE

1. Make things right with another person.
2. If the Father is God - then making things right is a mistake.

Religious Approach

If I am abject enough maybe God will notice me and I can resurrect His love.

Gospel Approach

In the Gospel, repentance reconnects you more deeply to the source of your power and confidence and joy.

Do you see the liberation of repentance?

You are free from evasion,
Free from needing a good record,
Free from defending yourself,
Free from exposing others to make yourself look good,
Free from winning the argument.

IV. THE KIND OF COMMUNITY THAT RESULTS FROM REPENTANCE

Not a community that is authoritarian. No abuse of power here; But a loving and committed confrontation.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5:16 NIV