

The Waiting Father
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Luke 15:11-32
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Synopsis:

What would it take for people to ask of us,
“Why are you going after those kind of people?”

The Pharisees and scribes grumbled about Jesus because he received and ate with tax collectors and sinners. “Why does he go after those kind of people?” they wondered.

In answering Jesus told them three parables.

I.

The Father Lets Us Go

Luke 15:12 “So he divided his property between *them*”

Three lost things parables:

Set up in 15:1-2 (READ) elders, deacons, pastors
Sheep, Coin, Sons (POINT OUT)

Focus upon two sons: ANE Background

Village life

Wishes Father dead

Sells property (unheard of)

Father’s actions are unique:

Doesn’t punish, should beat them

Let’s them have their way

Both rebellious sons:

vocal: asks, sells, leaves

silent: acquiesces, accepts, stays

Which son are you?

God lets us make the choice to go or stay in rebellion.

People in the church and outside the church are in rebellion.

Same story as Garden story (choice for autonomy)

II.

The Father Lets Us Feel Pain

Luke 15:17 “He came to himself”

Pain induces change for both: READ vv 25-32

Going to the Doctor

Hunger, pain

Both sons: one hungers, one smolders

Try to work a deal: “hired hand,” “I’m a slave”

Where are you in pain?

Pain in my family pushed me to God

Don’t push pain away (pink post-its)

III.

The Father Runs to Us

Luke 15:20 “He ran and put his arms around him”

Father runs to us:

Younger son:

While at a distance, runs, lavishes

Humiliating love, covering from community shame

Older son:

Comes out of house

Lets son berate him

Humiliating love, covering from community shame

God is coming after you (vocal or silent) before you come to him.

Grace seeks, suffers, finds, rejoices

IV.

The Father Lets Us Choose

Luke 15:21 “Son, you are always with me”

Both sons must choose:

Younger son gives up (tax collectors/sinners)

Older son holds on (Pharisees/scribes)

Non-church people give up

Church people hold on

Sonship or Servanthood?

God in Jesus Christ wants you to come home:
left for the far country
stayed in the house
One can be rebellious in both places.

In Jesus Christ there's a party going on.
You're invited to come home and celebrate.