

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



A TALE OF TWO SONS

June 20, 2021

Luke 15:1 – 2, 11 – 32

Pastor Nick Locke

MESSAGE NOTES

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

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.

"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'" — Luke 15:1 – 2, 11 – 32

The Lost Younger Son

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. — Luke 15:13 (ESV)

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. — Luke 15:14 – 16 (ESV)

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

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before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'

— Luke 15:17 – 19 (ESV)

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.

— Luke 15:20 – 24 (ESV)

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. — Luke 15:24

The Lost Older Brother

Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. — Luke 15:25 – 28 (ESV)

His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

— Luke 15:28 – 30 (ESV)

Our nature ... is so deeply curved in on itself that it ... wickedly, curvedly, and viciously seeks all things, even God, for its own sake. — Martin Luther

And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.' — Luke 15:31 – 32 (ESV)

Our True Older Brother

Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. — Hebrews 12:2

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DISCUSSION

- What stuck out to you from this passage?
- Which brother do you identify more with? Why are both paths so dangerous?
- What driving desires may be taking you away from the Father? Are you more interested in the good things that God can provide than in God himself?
- How do you view your relationship to the Father? Is He, in your mind, an obstacle keeping you from finding true joy? Or is He the destination? Do you want Him, or are you merely interested in His stuff?
- Verse 20 says, "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him." When you envision God embracing you this way, how do you feel about it?
- In what ways do you over-desire freedom or desire freedom above all else?
- In what ways do you find yourself trying to "control God" by "doing the right thing"?
- Do you approach God with the mindset that He owes you something (similar to the older brother's spirit)?
- Verse 31 the Father addresses the older brother saying "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours." Why is this easy or hard for you to believe about God?
- How could you reach out to those who are obviously lost, extend grace to someone who is still finding their way to God?