

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

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Jesus Reveals the God Who Celebrates Restored Relationship Luke 15:11-32

Recap

Jesus responds to critics who misunderstand God's attitude toward sinners.

Luke 15:1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

- The Lost Sheep (vv. 3-7): God rejoices when those estranged repent
- The Lost Coin (vv. 8-10): God diligently searches for the lost

The Parable of the Compassionate Father and His Two Lost Sons

1. The Younger Son's character and point of view

Luke 15:17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18** I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' **20** So he got up and went to his father."

The Father's response

Luke 15:20 "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him... **22** "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."

2. The Older Son's character and point of view

Luke 15:29 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. **30** But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

The Father's response

Luke 15:28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him...**31** And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Jesus, not the Pharisees, Embodies God's Longing for Joyful Reconciliation

- 1. God overflows with mercy, grace, patience, faithful love and forgiveness.**
Ex. 34:6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."
- 2. God's desire for restoration with humanity crosses all boundaries.**
Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."
- 3. God prioritizes forgiveness and restoration more than ritual & propriety.**
Mark 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."
- 4. God's joy at restored relationship is cause for unending celebration.**
Luke 15:32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

Reflection/Discussion

1. Where do you see yourself in Jesus's parable? Are you rejoicing continually in God's reconciling work?
2. Based on this parable, what would you say to someone who thinks they are too far from God to receive his mercy or who thinks they can expect a cold welcome from Him?
3. In what ways might the older brother's attitude creep into your thoughts and behavior?
4. How does this parable along with the early two help us guard against self-righteousness while maintaining and "seeking and saving" mentality?

SONGS

"THE LION AND THE LAMB"

"EVIDENCE"

"MY KING FOREVER"

"BUILD MY LIFE"

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Behold Podcast: vbc.online/behold

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 127,599.03

2023 WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

2023 GIVING: \$1,918,104.10

2023 GENERAL NEED: \$1,923,220.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:
(Last Entry 01/03) \$ 116,938.74

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