

Just Show Up: The Lost Sons, part 1

Luke 15:1-2, 19-24

Luke 15:1-2

Two groups of people who came to hear Jesus speak.

1. There are tax-collectors and sinners
 - A. Tax-collectors were irreligious and immoral.
 - B. The phrase sinners refers to the worst of the worst
 - C. Everywhere Jesus went, this was the crowd he was attracting
2. There are Pharisees and other religious people
 - A. Pharisees were the most religious and most moral people in Israel
 - B. The Pharisees were furious that Jesus welcomed the dregs of society.
3. The intended audience for these parables was not the wayward sinners, but the religious elite
4. Religious people were offended by Jesus, but the worst of sinners were attracted to Him.

“In every case where Jesus meets a religious person and a sexual outcast (as in Luke 7) or a religious person and a racial outcast (as in John 3-4) or a religious person and a political outcast (as in Luke 19), the outcast is the one who connects with Jesus and the elder-brother type does not.”

Keller, Timothy. *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith* (p. 15). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Luke 15:11-12

1. The story begins with a short but shocking request
 - A. To request his inheritance from his living dad was to say, you are dead to me.
 - B. To request his inheritance was asking his father to give up both his standing and security.
The word “property” is literally translated “the life”
2. The father’s response is even more shocking than the son’s request

Luke 15:13-16

1. The distant country reflects the son’s heart more than his location.

“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” Proverbs 14:12

2. He succeeded in getting as far away from his religion as a Jew could get. He ended up with pigs.

Luke 15:17-20a

1. He will admit he was wrong, and he has forfeited the right to be his son.
2. He will ask for a job so he can earn money to make restitution

Luke 15:20b-24

1. The dad willingly humiliated himself in public for the love of his son. 15:20b
2. The dad orders that the son be clothed in the best robe. 15:22
3. Then father throws and extravagant party for everyone in the village

To receive God’s grace, you just have to show up!