

Pigpens and Pews: The Lost Sons, part 2

Luke 15:1-2, 19-31

We know this story as:

1. The parable of the prodigal son or
2. The Parable of the Lost Son.
However, this is actually a story about two lost sons

Luke 15:1-2

Folks coming to hear Jesus teach included:

1. The tax-collectors and sinners.
2. There were also the Pharisees and other religious leaders.

A. The Rabbis taught that you should have nothing to do with tax-collectors and sinners.

B. The Pharisees and religious leaders are the intended audience for these parables.

Luke 15:11-12

1. To request his inheritance from his living Father was to say, "you are dead to me."
2. The older brother did not step in and defend the father.
3. The brothers hate each other and neither of them loves the Father.

Luke 15:25-32

1. The older brother is deeply judgmental and entitled.

A. Judgmental and entitled people don't understand themselves and they don't understand God.

There are two irrational "nevers" in this passage.

1. The older brother says "I never did anything wrong." 15:29

2. The older brother also says, "You never gave me all that I deserve." 15:29

3. The older brother sees himself as a slave not a son. 15:29

2. The older brother's heart didn't align with the father's heart.

3. The older son was just as lost as the younger son.

- You can be just as lost in the pews as you can among the pigs.
- The younger brother resisted grace to pursue his own desires.
- The older brother resisted grace to pursue his own justification.
- The younger brother believed the lie that he couldn't be saved because of what he had done.
- The older brother believed that lie that he was saved because of all the good he had done.
- The Father pursued both sons. He ran to the wayward son. He left the party to pursue the older son.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9