

SERMON DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

AUGUST 30, 2020

The Story of Two Sons and Their Father - Ron Schafer

WARM-UP

1. Have you ever lost something of great value to you, only to find it but at a much later date? Describe that situation, and how did you feel about the item, both when you lost it and then when you found it? Was it cause for celebration when you found it? What did you think and do when it was found?

DIGGING DEEPER

With this message, Pastor Ron takes us into the Gospel account of Luke, reflecting on the three successive “lost and found” parables. Beginning at the opening of chapter 15, we have the lost sheep, then the lost coin, and finally the lost son(s). And while we know the third parable as “The Prodigal Son”, could it be that the focus is really elsewhere? Maybe the other, older son? Or maybe the father? And which of the two sons was really lost? First, read the entire story – Luke 15:11-32

The Younger Son’s Actions – READ: Luke 15:1-3 and 11-19

2. In verses 1-3, who is Jesus telling these three parables to? And based on just these three verses, what is the common theme that Jesus will speak to in all three parables? Why is this significant, given His audience?
3. In verses 11-16, we learn of the younger son’s (the prodigal son) rebellion – what Pastor Ron called, “external rebellion”. In verses 14-16, what were the results of his rebellion?
4. In verses 17-19, we learn of the younger son’s ‘change of mind’ – his repentance – how would you describe what he did and said?

The Father’s Response – READ: Luke 15:20-24

5. How would you summarize the father’s response to the younger son’s statement of repentance? Did the father’s response indicate love and forgiveness, and if so, why?

The Older Son’s Reactions – READ: Luke 15:25-30

6. In these verses, we learn of the older son’s rebellion – what Pastor Ron called, “internal rebellion”. What does this internal rebellion consist of? And what did the older son assume about the works that he was doing for his father and the result of ‘following his every command’? What do you think the Pharisees and Scribes were thinking at this point?

7. Which son sinned against his father?
8. Which son do you relate to most, in either your life before you became a Christian or even now as a follower?

The Father's Response – READ: Luke 15:28 and 31-32

9. In verse 28, what does the father do with the older son? Why is this significant? What does it mean in terms of the actions and relationships that God has with His created humans?
10. In verses 31-32, what does the father's statement to the older son mean? What does this hold for us as believers who are still sinners today?

PRAYER

Let us pray that we would understand and 'celebrate' our place as God's adopted sons and daughters, while we are yet sinners, we have been found. And pray that we would have the strength and guidance, through the Holy Spirit, to take this Good News of the Gospel to those whom God places in our paths where we live, work and play.

In case you missed the service, here are the EAC, Facebook, and YouTube links:

<http://edgewateralliance.org/media/sermon-videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/edgewateralliance/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQWUv1FD_qsUJUZn93kw