

## Shepherding Broken People with Grace

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Luke 15:11-32

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### **The Parable of the Father w/ 2 sons Lk 15:11-32**

- As under-shepherds we can learn from the parable
- Under-shepherds are called to shepherd real-life (messy) situations
- Must abide in Christ to have His compassion & grace Jn 15:4

### **Finding the balance of Godly counsel:**

- Avoid law-based counsel: 'you should...; instead give the hope of Gospel
- We must repent of not just our sins, but of our righteousness - 2 sons
  - younger son - lived for self, took from father, didn't fellowship w/ father
  - older son - lived by the law, didn't fellowship w/ father Lk 15:29
- Older son - legalist: beware
  - makes holiness a 'manageable task'
  - makes holiness an achievement on our part Lk 15:29
  - Danger according to Scripture: Col 3:20-23
- Gospel - foundation of our identity (who we are because of Christ)... that leads us to the actions we take when we remember who we are!

### **Remember & Shepherd with the Gospel G's:**

#### **God is Great - so I don't have to be in control:**

- God's Sovereignty: Gen 1; Heb 1:3; Eph 1:11
- We forget this when we seek to take control by manipulation, domination, busyness, or frustration because we can't control things... Php 4:6-7; Lk 12:30-31
- Daily choice: is God sovereign and good - can I trust Him?

#### **God is Glorious: so I don't have to fear others:**

- We crave approval and we fear rejection...
- We get swayed from truth by others; we over-commit, we tell small lies, we avoid others or we fear evangelism... Psa 111:10; Heb 4:6

#### **God is Good: so I don't have to look elsewhere:**

- We too often live in the moment... pleasures of sin are real; joy of God distant
- Marriage illustration of joy of union with God; however adultery or idolizing marriage then you have settled for less than God's best
- God alone satisfies: Jn 6:35; Delight in the Lord Psa 37:4

#### **God is Gracious: so I don't have to prove myself:**

- We are like the sons in Lk 15 - we forget this everyday: when things go well we are filled with pride; when things go poorly we blame ourselves or God
- Gospel Truth: New Covenant Grace: Paid in Full by the Blood of Jesus!

## **Think & Discuss:**

- What is the Gospel?
- God - eternal, all-powerful, holy creator of everything; Gen 1; Col 1:15-17
- Sin - humanity has chosen self-rule over submission in relationship to God; penalty for sin is death. Isa 59:2; Rm 3:23
- Jesus - God incarnate came to die as a substitute for the penalty of humanity's sins. Jn 10:14; 2 Cor 5:21
- Faith - by faith in what Jesus did, not by any effort of our own, we are saved from our sins. Jn 1:12; 10:27; Eph 2:8-10. Think great exchange...
- Read the Parable of the Two Sons:
  - Who do you most identify with?
  - How do you view your Father in Heaven?
- Consider these statements and discuss:
- The older (religious) son obeyed in order to be accepted by his father. He feared what his dad might do if he was disobedient. The Gospel instead motivates us to obedient Christian living by reminding us that because of Jesus we are ALREADY accepted, that judgement against our sin has already fallen on Jesus, therefore there is now NO guilt or condemnation left for us!
- In religion the older son obeyed in order to get things from his father. He probably made promises about what he would do or how he would change to get his father's approval. The Gospel shows us God's love by what God did for me and His amazing grace teaches me to obey God out of joyful gratitude for all that God has already given me. I OBEY to ENJOY God!
- The older son found his identity and self-worth in what he had done or accomplished (Lk 15:29). It is based upon how HARD he worked or how moral he was, so he looked down on his younger brother who "wasn't quite as moral or obedient as me." BUT in the Gospel, though I was God's enemy, unable to accomplish or earn His love by my actions Ro 5:8 The Gospel tells me that my identity and self-worth are based on God's love for me in Jesus Christ!