

Sharing the Father's Heart

Luke 15:1-2 (ESV)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

Luke 15:11-24 (ESV)

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons.¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them.¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'"²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

- Next Jesus focuses in on the Pharisee and scribes.

2 Corinthians 7:1 (ESV)

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

Matthew 23:25-28 (ESV)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.²⁷ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.²⁸ So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Luke 15:25-32 (ESV)

"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,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!’ 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.’”

Luke 15:2 (ESV)

And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

- How is the older son like the Jewish leaders?

Luke 15:25-27 (ESV)

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’

- What is the significance of the fattened calf?
- Are you and the Father on the same page?

Luke 15:28-30 (ESV)

But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 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!’

- What the father celebrated angered the older son.
- Why did the older brother refuse to celebrate?
- Does God’s lavish grace anger you?
- This is similar to Jonah’s response.
- Even with his bad attitude and perspective the father entreats him to join the celebration!
- It is his call to repentance!
- “I never ran away and squandered your wealth, I didn’t deny your love and where is my party?”
- “I never sinned!”
- Our Father did more than kill the fattened calf, He sacrificed the Lamb of God.

Luke 15:31-32 (ESV)

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.’”

- The father reminds him of his identity first!
- Though he was present his heart was not.
- Is your heart at home with the Father?
- The Father even reminded the older son of all that he had in him.
- Do you need to be reminded all that we have in Him?
- This is the attitude and perspective the Jewish leaders lacked. Why?
 - o Judgmental
 - o Critical of others
 - o Blind to his own sin

- o Do the right things for the wrong reasons
- o They could not celebrate with others