

Series: The Story

Message: Who Needs The Story? Part 2

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Teacher: Randy Pope

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Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ And He said, "A man had two sons.

¹² "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them.

¹³ "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

¹⁴ "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished.

¹⁵ "So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

¹⁶ "And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.

¹⁷ "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!

¹⁸ 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;

¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'"

²⁰ "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

²¹ "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet;

²³ and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;

²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶ "And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be.

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 became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him.

²⁹ "But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends;

³⁰ but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

³¹ "And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.

³² 'But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'"

Last Week:

1. All People Are Alienated From God.
2. Lost People Express Their Alienation From God In Different Ways.
 - 1) Prideful Rebels Are Deceived By The Alluring World.
 - 2) Religious Moralists Are Deceived By Their Own Relative Goodness.

This Week:

3. Religious Moralists Are Worse Off Than Prideful Rebels.
 - 1) Their Goodness Masks Their Need For The Gospel.
 - 2) Their Proximity To Him Convinces Them That They Are Not Really Away From Home.
 - 3) Their Pride Of Performance Robs Them Of The Joy Of Grace.
 - 4) Their Comparison Of Personal Goodness With Those Of Lesser Performance Leads To Jealously Expressed Toward The Recipients Of God's Grace.

Evidences Of An Older Brother Mindset

- 1) He Becomes Angry With His Father Over His "Bad Deals" Of Life.
- 2) He Hates His Father's Rules.
- 3) He Experiences Lack Of Joy As He Seeks To Relate To His Father.
- 4) He Possesses A Judgmental Spirit Against Those Who Break The Father's Laws.
- 5) He Possesses A Self-Centered Concern Rather Than A Concern For Those With Greater Needs.