

45 – Luke 15:1-32 – The lavish Father

Luke 14 ... dining at the home of the religious elite.

Luke 15 ... eating with and talking to tax collectors and sinners.

The parable of the lost sheep and coin

When one sinner turns back to God there is great rejoicing in heaven.

... the lengths that God goes to rescue the lost who are unable to rescue themselves.

Do we grasp the heart of God when a sinner repents?

Do we see the grace he shows toward those who cannot save themselves?

The parable of the two lost sons and the lavish father

Prodigal = “lavish”

“the parable of the two lost sons and the lavish Father”.

One Son wishes his Father was dead, and tells him so.

... remembers his Father’s character.

... he returns home repentant

... the Father runs to meet him.

“This Son of mine was dead but now he is alive again, he was lost but now he is found”.

... the father with lavish love and undeserved grace, celebrates the return of HIS son.

The “Older brother”.

... VERY resentful that the younger brother is back.

... the model worker.

“this Son of yours”.

... lovingly and graciously comes out to the older Son and PLEADED with him to come in.

Unresolved ... will the older Son change his heart ... like the younger son has done?

What does this parable mean?

... heaven rejoices at the salvation of sinners... whether hard hearted law driven religious people like the pharisees or the terrible sinners like “tax collectors”.

For us today

1) More than just a story about family reunions

2) Are you “self-righteous” or a “sinner”?

... pious and religious people who think they are righteous before God already

... those who with God was dead.

Are you a good upright moral person who does not (did not) understand God’s grace?

Or are you the terrible sinner in the story who wonders if God could forgive a person like you?

3) The heart of God

God, who is rich in mercy, loves it when sinners, like me, repent.

... to lavish his grace upon us.

4) A Heart for the lost (like God)

... do we have the same sort of heart of the lost that Jesus has?