

The Truth About Salvation

LUKE 15.11-32

Lk 15:11 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.'"

Jesus' focus in the entire chapter is lost things: A Lamb, a Coin, a Son

There three powerful principles to be gleaned from all three parables:

1. Real Love is Focused on the Individual not the Crowd
2. Real Love Relentlessly Pursues What is Lost
3. Real Love Rejoices Over the Return

God began to give me insight regarding the things we focus on as the real marks of Christian commitment.

- LIFESTYLE, READING OF SCRIPTURE, PRAYER, & SHARING OUR FAITH.

As pastors, we try to guilt trip and cajole people into attending and doing and giving and it works for 21 DAYS. ☺ - But it doesn't last.

We had a powerful hour of prayer and we began praying that the Holy Spirit would guide us into a new level of discipline when it comes to reading and receiving God's Word. We ended praying that WE WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH JESUS AGAIN....

Jn 14:12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. 15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

EVERYTHING COMES DOWN TO WHAT YOU LOVE.....

Older brother and younger are lost - LOST IN THE PIG PEN OR LOST IN THE HOUSE

1. The PRODIGAL SON HATED HIS FATHER

Jer 17:7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. 8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. 9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

- HE ASKED FOR AN INHERITANCE THAT YOU GET WHEN FATHER DIES
- HE USED THE INHERITANCE TO FINANCE SEPARATION

2. The PRODIGAL SON NEEDED HIS FATHER

Jn 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

- LIFE FELL APART DURING THE SEPARATION
- HE COULD NOT PROVIDE FOR HIMSELF THOUGH WEALTHY

Am 5:4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel, "Seek Me that you may live. 6 "Seek the LORD that you may live, Or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, And it will consume with none to quench it for Bethel,

Ro 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

3. The FATHER NEVER STOPPED LOVING THE SON

Jer 31:3 The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

- HE APPEARS TO BE LOOKING OUT FOR HIM
- HE RUNS TO HIM TO BRING HIM HOME
- HE CELEBRATES HIS RETURN- NEW WALK, NEW RIGHTEOUSNESS, NEW AUTHORITY

Eph 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

If you're coming to prayer because it's your week, please stay home.

If you're coming because you're a leader or a faithful member, stay home.

If you're coming because Bishop is asking us, stay home.

This week, no matter where you live I only want you to come if you love God so much that you want to spend some extra time with Him.