

DAY 4 Read Luke 15:11-32 focusing on the Father in the Story.

What are some key observations about this father that Jesus brings out in the story? What do you need to learn from this father about you and your relationships with others (family, children, friends, lost people, etc)? How have you personally experienced the love of God the Father as demonstrated by this father? Where do you need to be more connected to the heart of God from this? Pray for a heart for God that loves others gracefully.

DAY 5 Read 2Pet.3:18 & Heb.12:15 focusing on the need to grow in grace while not growing bitter or resentful. What are a couple practical ways you can practice these two verses? Read the following quote from Henri Nouwen regarding the Older Brother and discuss how it applies to you. What is your prayer and action from this?

“There are many elder sons and elder daughters who are lost while still at home. And it is this lostness—characterized by judgment and condemnation, anger and resentment, bitterness and jealousy—that is so pernicious and so damaging to the human heart. Often we think about lostness in terms of actions that are quite visible. The lostness of the elder son is much harder to identify. A dark power erupts in him and boils to the surface. Suddenly, there becomes glaringly visible a resentful, proud, unkind, selfish person.” — Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*



I HAVE DECIDED

Pastor Ken Goodban

Part 14

4.3.22

“Breaking Bad Attitudes with a Heart of Gratitude” Luke 15:20-32

“Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.” Luke 9:23 NLT

prod-i-gal

1: one who spends or gives lavishly and foolishly;

2: one who has returned after an absence.

The Prodigal Pharisees – critical attitudes that complain about grace.

“Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! So, Jesus told them this story...to illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: ‘A man had two sons...’

Luke 15:1-3,11 NLT

The Prodigal Son – selfish attitudes that find God’s grace.

“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’ “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick!

Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began." Luke 15:20-24 NLT

The Prodigal Older Bro – resentful attitudes that miss God's grace.

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.' "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!" Luke 15:20-30 NLT

The Pursuing God – the heart of the Father that is filled with grace.

"And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him... We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life." Luke 15:20, 23-24 NLT

"The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him." Luke 15:28 NLT

"His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!" Luke 15:31-32 NLT

Let go of that "Older Bro" attitude and run to the Father with a heart of gratitude.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."
2Pet.3:18 NKJV

DAILY LIFE GROUP GUIDE _____ **Apr.4-9, 2022**

Use *this* guide this week to help you spend time with God every day. As you go through the daily devotional, reflect on His Word and pray specifically for God to guide your steps each day. Take one day at a time - Read, Reflect, and Record your answers. Spend time in prayer for God's guidance. Share your thoughts & action steps with your LifeGroup. We are Better Together!

DAY 1 Read Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 as if you are a Pharisee in the Room.

What's going on in your heart that leads Jesus to tell this Parable? As a Pharisee, can you see yourself in the story – why or why not? What does Jesus want you to see through this illustration? How is this a great story for you to hear now in 2022? Pray for a non-Pharisaical attitude for the week.

DAY 2 Read Luke 15:11-24 as if you are the Prodigal Son in the Story.

As the Son, what's going on in your heart & mind that you want your inheritance now? As the Son, how long did it take to "hit bottom" and what did that look & feel like for you? What was your moment of clarity and what surprised you when you got home? How is your relationship with your father different now than before? How is YOUR relationship to the Father (2022)? Pray with a heart of gratitude.

DAY 3 Read Luke 15:25-32 as if you were this Older Brother in the Story.

Why do you get so upset when you get home from work and hear what's going on? What are you really angry about? What has been going on in your heart that this situation brings to the surface? How can you be living with your father yet be so disconnected to his heart for your brother (and you)? How do you connect with this Older Bro today? Pray for a deeper relationship with the Father.

