



## **Sermon Discussion Questions**

April 15 and 22, 2012

Mike Moses – Davidson and Huntersville

Celebrate: Returning Prodigals

*Note: This sermon was preached at LFC-Davidson on April 15 and will be preached at LFC-Huntersville on April 22nd.*

### **Scripture: Luke 15**

#### **Introduce it: Begin thinking about the sermon**

Tell the group about your earthly father. What were they like growing up and even now? What did you appreciate about them and what do you wish had been different? What is your relationship like with them today and how do you wish it were different and ways you are glad it is like it is? Are there any ways that you see your heavenly father in the same ways that you see your earthly father?

#### **Revisit it: Look back at the passages taught**

Read Luke 15:13-24

When the younger son asked his father for his inheritance, what is he saying to his father and how does this describe what type of relationship he wants with his dad? In other words, when is it that you usually get your inheritance?

\*Leader: he is basically saying he wants his dad dead. This describes the relationship the son wants with his father-none. He wants nothing to do with his dad and only to be on his own.

After squandering all that he had, looking at verses 17-19, what is the type of relationship that the son is willing to have with his dad now? What gives this away in these verses?

\*Leader: He now compares himself to what the servants in the house have and what he doesn't. He is very willing to just be a servant in his dad's house. He is still ok with not being a son.

Compare the speech he plans to give to his father in verse 17-19 with the speech that he gives his father in 21. What is different and why is it different?

\*Leader: the father doesn't give him a chance to say, "make me like one of your hired servants." The father won't have anything to do with that. He wants his son back.

Read Luke 15:1-10 and what is similar in each and the fathers response in Luke 15:22-24.

\*Leader: Something is lost and now it is back and it needs to be celebrated. Something extremely valuable.

Read Luke 15:25-32

What are all the reasons you can think of that the older son is angry?

\*Leader: he feels he has not been celebrated, he sees no reason for his brother to be celebrated for being foolish, what they are spending and celebrating with is all the inheritance left over that actually now belongs to the older son.

What do we read in this passage as the older sons definition of "why to celebrate"?

\*Leader: verse 29-30 gives his definition. You celebrate obedience and not disobedience.

Do you agree with the older son's definition? In what ways do you celebrate for these exact reasons that he gives?

\*Leader: yes, most of the time we do agree and if we recognize all our celebrations, they are predominantly centered around someone doing what they are supposed to do.

What do we learn about the father's heart by looking at verse 20 and what is the older son's understanding of the father's heart described in verse 29? How are these different?

\*Leader: verse 20 we see that the father's heart is focused on the younger son. He longs for him to be home to the

point that he sees him a far way off. This shows that he has continued to hope that he would return. But the older son thinks the father is only interested in doing the "duties".

In the stories told in Luke 15:1-10, something is lost and when it is lost, something then happens. What is it that happens after that object is lost? Does this same thing happen in Luke 15:11-32? Who is it that should have been doing this?

\*Leader: when something is lost, someone goes and searches all over for that lost thing. In the story of the 2 sons, no one goes to look for the younger son. That was the job of the older son. BUT, the older son was most focused on being obedient to the father's duties and not the father's heart. Had he truly known the father's heart, he would have been out searching for the younger son.

**Use It: Don't just learn the passage-apply it**

Who are the people that you know are "lost" and in what ways have you avoided them by staying focused on just doing the things that God wants you to do to keep him happy with you?

Who is your lost brother/sister that you need to go searching for? How can you do that this week?

Read the following comparisons given this morning from a Tim Keller writing:

Rebellion is about nonconformity. Religion is about conformity.

Rebellion is about breaking the rules. Religion is about keeping the rules.

Rebellion tends to be liberal. Religion tends to be conservative.

Rebellion tends to be immoral. Religion tends to be moral.

Rebellion is about disobedience. Religion is about obedience.

Rebellion is about being lazy. Religion is about working hard.

Rebellious sin is visible. Religious sin is invisible.

Rebellious people use people. Religious people judge people.

Rebellious people are unrighteous. Religious people are self-righteous.

Which of these descriptions define you the most? Which side do you lean on the most?

In the story, we see that both sons are lost and both use the father. In what ways can you practically this week celebrate the person on the other side of this list from you? In other words, how can you love them in a way that says, "Our father loves you-let's stop using our father and celebrate that he loves us."

**Remember it: Memorize the verse**

Memorize Luke 15:32, "But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

*Teach this verse to your children and help them to see their father in heaven as one that is NOT just about keeping the rules. He is about celebrating the lost and celebrating those that go look for the lost.*