

PSALMS PROVERBS & PARABLES



Joy's Home

Luke 15.1-32

Main Idea

True joy is never disconnected from the Grace of being found.

Overview

I. Two crowds constitute the audience of Jesus' stories (Vss. 1-2):

- Tax Collectors & Sinners: These are those that have openly rebelled and know they are "lost"
- Pharisees & Scribes: These are the religious officials who trust in their own righteousness &
 - Grumble at sinners being welcomed by Jesus
 - Jesus stories indicate that both of these "ways" fall short and He offers a third way

II. Lost Sheep (Vss. 3-7) & Lost Coin (Vss. 8-10):

- The shepherd goes after the lost sheep, finds them and rejoices
- The woman searches for the lost coin, finds it and rejoices

III. The Tale of the Two Sons & their father (Vss. 11-32):

- The younger son treats the father as though he were dead in asking for his inheritance (Vss. 11-12)
 - He lives recklessly and squanders the money (Vs. 13)
 - A famine hits at this time and he looks for work (Vs. 14)
 - He finds work in a pig sty where he longs for pigs food (Vs. 16)
 - He recognizes his sin against heaven and his father and determines to go back to his fathers home as a servant (not a son) (Vss. 17-19)
 - The father sees him in the distance, runs to embrace him, hear his confession and lavish his grace on him by returning him to sonship (Vss. 19-24)
- The older brother is upset that he is not treated in the same way (Vss. 25-32)
 - He has stayed home (obeyed the rules) but hasn't had this kind of treatment
 - The older brother feels as though he earned something better than the sinful son
 - The older brother does not rejoice in the younger son being found and remains outside
- The "third way" is by recognizing your being lost and rejoicing at being found in grace...this is Joy

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Briefly share some of your testimonies of how you were lost and then found.*

1. Read Luke 15. Describe the two different crowds that are in the audience of these parables. Why are the Pharisees and Scribes grumbling? What is Jesus doing with the parables to address this?

2. What are the common features of the three parables?
3. In what way is the younger brother like the “sinners” in the crowd?
4. What is the conclusion that the younger brother comes to in the pig’s sty? How do his conclusions and expectations prepare the younger brother (and us!) for joy?
5. How does the father treat the son after his confession in comparison with the younger son’s expectations? What does that say about how we are thought of and treated in the Gospel?
6. What does the father think of the son while he is away? How is he thought of after his repentance?
7. How is joy connected to grace in this story and how must it be connected in our own lives? How does our understanding of grace inform our joy? How do Joy, Grace, and being Found go together?
8. What does the older brother lack in connection to the other parables? Why is this important? How do we miss joy in our own lives in light of this?
9. Which brother do you more readily identify with and why? What steps need to be taken to get you back to Joy in being found?

Accountability Question: *Where are you not rejoicing in things around you being “found”? Relate this back to a lack of understanding grace.*