



“The Jesus Story: The One Everybody Can Know”

Luke 15:11-24

December 1, 2013

XXVI. The Love of the Father (Luke 15:11-24)

- Four truths that we learn about ourselves:

A. We were all born with the heart of a prodigal. (15:11-13)

1. The younger son really represents the human race.
2. The father never forgot about his son.
3. He never stopped loving him. (Isa 53:6)
4. We have all rebelled against God
5. Sin is deciding, whether consciously or unconsciously, to live your life independent of God. (Rom 3:10-12)

B. Our prodigal hearts always lead us to the far country. (15:13-16)

1. The far country is...
 - a. That place where you end up whenever you turn away from God.
 - b. A distant place.
 - c. A place where sin abounds.
 - d. A place where you will find yourself spent out.
 - e. A place where there is no real fulfillment.
 - f. A place of emptiness and guilt. (Psalm 32:3-4)

C. When we come to our senses, we must turn around and come home.

(15:17-19)

1. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a turning away from sin, and a turning back to God.
2. This is all God wants to see in any of us—a repentant heart. That is what Jesus saw in the thief on the cross—a repentant heart.

(Ps 51:16-17)

D. We have a loving Father, with outstretched arms, waiting for us.

(15:20-24)

1. The dimensions of God’s love... (Eph 3:17-19; Ps 40:2; Rom 13:13-14; II Pet 3:9)

a. God’s love is wide.

b. God’s love is long.

c. God’s love is high.

d. God’s love is deep.

“Oh God! You made us for Yourself and man’s heart is restless until its rests in Thee!” -Augustine

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