

Parables of Grace

Receiving Grace: The Parable of the Lost Son

(Luke 15:11-32)

- Introduction:
1. The Parable of the “Lost Son” or “Prodigal Son” is one of the best-known parables Jesus ever spoke.
 2. Yet, it is the third parable in a trilogy of parables Jesus spoke in response to the judgmental thinking of the Scribes and Pharisees.
 3. The force of this third parable in this trilogy may be more on the elder son than the “prodigal son.”
 4. As with all of these lessons, I want to establish the meaning of the parable to its original hearers, then glean some lessons from it for us today.

I. The Parable of the Lost Son

- A. (Luke 15:11-32).
- B. Before reading this parable, remember what prompted Jesus to give this parable.
- C. The parable of the prodigal son contains the same point that Jesus made in the two previous parables in this chapter.
- D. But it contains an additional point – a point about the “wrong-headed” attitude of the elder brother.

II. Application of the Parable

- A. God’s grace surpasses our sinfulness
 1. (Luke 15:20-24).
 2. (Romans 5:20).
 3. (1 Timothy 1:15-16).
 4. Don’t ever begrudge the reach of God’s grace!
- B. We can be “lost” at home.
 1. Sin is not summed up in actions alone, but also encompasses attitudes (Matthew 5:22, 28).
 2. (Mark 7:20).
 3. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

- Conclusion:
1. One of the most gripping parts to this parable is the scene of the Father pleading with the older brother, while the younger brother has been restored.
 2. What a convicting turn of events!
 3. We are represented in this parable. We are either:
 - a. The younger son before humbling himself.
 - b. The younger son after humbling himself.
 - c. The older son.