



6th July 2025

There was a man who had two sons

Luke 15:1-32

Readings: Luke 15:1-32

UNDERSTAND THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO BE LOST

The two ways we break God's heart

In this parable Jesus shows us that both sons are lost and dead

REBELLION: The younger son is lost and dead because of his rebellion and self-determining life choices

RELIGION: And the older son is just as lost and just as dead because of his religion and slavish obedience

Which "son" best represents your heart attitude to God?

GRASP THE ESSENCE OF OUR SINFUL HEARTS

Jesus' anatomy of our sinful hearts

The essence of sin, according to Jesus is relational

Both sons want the Father's stuff (v12) and (v29) but not a relationship with their Father.

YOUNGER BROTHERS

- Resent authority 12
- Feel entitled 12

OLDER BROTHERS

- Are prone to anger 28
- Performance driven 28

- Long to "be free" 13
- Love to "party" 13
- No sense of God's love 29
- Hates grace given to others 30

So they are both lost and both are dead! 24, 32

RECEIVE THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE FOUND

The Father's infinitely compassionate and costly love

CONSIDER THE FATHER:

- He endures the hatred and abuse of both of his sons 12, 29
- He extends his love and compassion to both of his sons 20, 28
- He embraces both of his sons 20, 31

WHO PAID FOR THE YOUNGER SON

- To be clothed 22?
- To be honoured 22?
- To be celebrated 23?

Check out 12 and 31!

Who is telling us this parable?

Questions For Our Growth Groups

1. What most stood out to you and why from this message?
2. In this parable Jesus shows us how both individuals and cultures relate to God either as "younger brother" or "older brothers" Check out Romans 1:18-2:29. Which culture best describes Leighton Buzzard and how should this help us in our outreach to them?
3. How in your own words does Jesus show us the essence of sin, and which of the two son's hearts is a mirror of yours? (BTW we can be both at times!)
4. How does Jesus help us to see the magnitude of our Father's costly love and Him paying the full cost for you and I to be celebrated?