



DIGGING DEEPER

Luke 15v11-32 – Lost and Found

PLEASE READ – Luke 15v1-32

GETTING STARTED

What are the main similarities and what are the main differences between the 3 parables in this chapter?

Jesus is addressing 2 groups of people in this chapter (see v1-2). Why is this so important when it comes to understanding the parable of the lost sons?

1) YOUNGER SON – SIN AND REPENTANCE

Talk about the way the younger son treats his father in v12. How does that same attitude express itself in 21st century Britain? Do you ever treat God like that?

Does the way the Father responds in v12 surprise you? If so, why?

Talk through the younger son's downward spiral into misery... (v12-16)

How did the Lord bring this boy 'to his senses'?

If someone asked you what sin and repentance are, how would you use this parable to help them?

2) FATHER – FORGIVENESS AND GRACE

What do we learn about the heart of God from what we see in the Father? Focus particularly on v20. Notice the Father does 5 things in this one verse!

Compare v19 (what the Son had prepared to say) with v21 (what he actually said). What did the son not get to say and why is that significant?

Why does the father use 'dead and alive' language alongside 'lost and found'? (see v24 and 32)

If someone asked you what grace is, how would you use this parable to help them?

Why are the celebrations in v6, v9 and v32 **not** over the top?

3) OLDER SON – SELF-RIGHTEOUS PRIDE

Why does the older son respond like he does in v28?

Describe the older son's relationship with his father in v29...

Talk about the 2 forms of 'lostness' we see in the 2 sons. How do these same attitudes reveal themselves today? Where do you fit in the story?

Meditate on the words of the apostle Paul below...

***Eph 2v8-9:** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.*