

Two Sons And A Father Luke 15:20-24

Relating To The Father

Often find lessons we missed as we continue to study.

Parable emphasizes relationship to God as 'Father' - **1Corinthians 8:5-6; 1Thessalonians 3:11-13**

Which is correct? Which will bring us closer to God as our Father so that he might bless us and bring us into Heaven?

Consider the relationships shown:

Young Son

Saw the Father as a source, a giver - **Luke 15:12**

This son thought of his father as one who was take care of what he desired

"give me my share"; You have something that is mine.

See this often among siblings at death of a parent. Sometimes even before death! Also seen among teenagers.

The father for these children is simply a source of things.

Is this how you see Father, God, as a source of salvation?

He is supposed to save me and take care of me! It is entirely up to Him.

God "carries us" to our salvation! - **John 3:16; Titus 2:11; Ephesians 2:4-9**

This attitude of entitlement will lead us to just do whatever we please and expect someone to take care of the consequences.

We will tend to blame God or others for the bad things that happen to us and will expect someone to always get us out of the tight spot.

Of course this young son saw differently once he was truly left on his own!

He understood the need to be near his father to receive from his father - **Luke 15:17-19**

He did acknowledge the need to submit to his father to receive these blessings. But is his attitude really that much better?

He still sees the father as a source! Just now as a source to be obeyed.

It leads us to expect reward for good service. We might even to think we have earned our blessings! It also leads to worry about punishment, to think that our problems are the result of some evil we did.

Older Son

He related to his father as his master - **Luke 15:29**

This is not the way the father wants his children to relate to him. This is a distortion of Christianity. Not the Christian life - **Acts 17:24-25**

It dishonors God to trust Him like a master in need of slave labor - **Mark 10:42-45**

Pharisees and scribes viewed things only from a merit based view - **Luke 18:9-14**

How many read **Luke 15:29** in past & came away thinking the older son had a legitimate complaint?

If we feel that way, we have missed the point of this part of the parable of the prodigal son.

An attitude of God as a commander to us as slave distorts our relationship

It puts an emphasis on meeting requirements to achieve our salvation.

It gives an attitude of superiority over those who struggle with temptation

We are better than those who are constantly in need of help, thus we will have a greater reward.

Begin to look down on those who fail to overcome sin as inferior and not worth time or effort

This attitude interferes with our understanding of God's Grace also.

The Father

Love and Compassion - **Luke 15:20-24**

Elated that he is home again where he belongs - **Luke 15:28**

Desire to have him near, to be close to him, willingness to give so son might benefit - **Luke 15:31**

God Wants Us To Be With Him

Enjoy perfect fellowship as you walk with God - **1John 1:7**

Don't dwell in the foreign place of misery and woe as did the younger son.

Don't focus on following commands as a servant. Don't look at what God has given as a reward for faithful service.

Embrace the inheritance of heaven that is for all who live by faith in the grace of God, not by counting our deeds.

Enter the Father's house and accept your place as a child of God. Enjoy the grace and mercy and forgiveness that is poured forth upon those who live with the Father - **2John 9; 1John 2:24**

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