

HOME GROUP QUESTIONS FROM SERMON **16th June 2025**

LUKE 15 V11-32 – 2025.06.015 – CCCWAMX2 – FATHER’S DAY

(A) THE PASSAGE

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

11 And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. 14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to [b] one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ [c] 22 But the father said to his servants, [d] ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ 28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ 31 And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

(B) THE QUESTIONS

THE PARABLE OF THE LOVING FATHER

Luke 15 V11-32

Icebreaker: when did you leave home and how did your parents take it?

1. BENEVOLENCE

(v11-13) And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

Four things which don't take place (v12)

- 1.1 No rebuke**
- 1.2 No warning**
- 1.3 No refusal**
- 1.4 No pleading**

Q1: If the father loves the son, why does he not say something?

Four things which do take place (v12-13)

- 1.5 There is fairness**
- 1.6 There is time**
- 1.7 There is distance**
- 1.8 There is disaster**

Q2: Which of these do you find surprising?

Benevolence = outrageous gentleness and generosity

2. BITTERNESS

(v25-30) "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' 28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

- 2.1 There is distance (v25)**
- 2.2 There is exclusion (v25)**
- 2.3 There is ignorance (v26-27)**
- 2.4 There is anger and separation (v27-28)**
- 2.5 There is a heart-rending invitation (v28)**
- 2.6 There is self-justification (v29)**
- 2.7 There is accusation against the father and the brother (v29-30)**

Q3: What does spiritual bitterness look like in practise?

Q4: What are the issues families face today, and how should the Christian respond?

Bitterness = when we are so near but so far

3. BROKENESS

(v13- 23) "13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. 14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into

his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’[c] 22 But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.”

(v32) “‘It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

3.1 He is reckless (v13)

3.2 He is suffering (v14)

3.3 He is powerless (v15)

3.4 He is unrewarded (v16)

3.5 He realises his position (v17-19)

3.7 He is seen (v20)

3.8 He is repentant x2 and rewarded x5 (v21-23)

3.9 He is resurrected x2 (v24 + 32)

Brokenness is the bridge from death to life

Q5: What do we find easiest to identify with in relation to the prodigal son?

Q6: What do we find hardest?

Q7: What's the big spiritual lesson we take away from this parable in relation to our own circumstances?

A PRAYER

Loving heavenly father thank you for your outrageous gentleness and generosity so strikingly revealed through the benevolent father in this parable.

Save me from the spiritual dangers of bitterness. In particular guard me against self-justification and accusation.

Visit me and all those dear to me in our brokenness. Help us to know that we are seen by you even when we are a far off, that we may be repentant, rewarded and resurrected by the power of your Holy Spirit. May the words of the father be true for me and those I love: “It is fitting to celebrate and be glad for I was dead and I am alive again. I was lost and now I am found” for the sake of your son Jesus Christ, and in the power of your Holy Spirit Amen.