



Let us look at the background how Jesus started to speak about this parable. Jesus was rebuking and correcting the Pharisees and scribes for their hypocrisy. He identified them as self-righteous and not truly righteous. He identified them as not truly understanding the Scripture or the will of God or God Himself. They were considered by Jesus as corrupt. Though Jesus said it in brutally frank manner, it was done to catch their attention and it was done with compassion, mercy and grace. This is the reason why the Pharisees and scribes want to attack Jesus.

Luke 15:1-2 indicated, ¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” (NIV)” Jesus knew that the Pharisees and the scribes were not getting it so he told them parables. And He goes on to tell a story about a shepherd who had a hundred sheep and he lost one and went out to find it, brought the sheep back. Then, He told a second story about a woman who had ten silver coins and lost one and went on a search until it was found. What Jesus is saying to them: It is God’s joy to recover sinners. But still, the Pharisees and scribes can’t understand it so Jesus told them a third story.

The third story is about the recovery of a lost son. The story is intended to demonstrate the same thing, the joy of God over the recovery of a lost sinner. But this story identifies the nature of repentance.

This parable has three characters: the younger son, the father, and the older son. We begin with the younger son. And as we open the story of the younger son, I want to take you to two things to think about: SHAMELESS REQUEST and SHAMELESS REBELLION. Luke 15:11-12 - ¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them (NIV)." We'll stop there for a moment.

The father in the story has two sons. The prodigal son is not the only son so this is why I called our series **The Story of the Two sons**. It's not really the story of one son, it's the story of two sons.

SHAMELESS REQUEST

Luke 15:12a - "The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' (NIV)" This is a scandalous statement even in our time. The younger son is utterly disrespectful toward his father. He lacks any love for his father whatsoever. There is not an ounce of gratitude in his heart for the love and provision of his father. In fact, the truth of the matter is for a son to say that in the ancient Middle East would be equivalent to saying, "Dad, I wish you were dead. You are in the way of my plans, you are a barrier. I want my freedom. I want my fulfillment and I want out of this family now." He is indeed a disrespectful son.

That's how serious the disrespect was and that is why in verse 24a when he comes back, the father says, "For this son of mine was dead...(NIV)" The father said it again in verse 32b, "...because this brother of yours was dead... (NIV)" It was even customary in that time and place to hold an official ceremony of a funeral, if you will, for such bad-mannered child. The only way back to your Father or family was RESTITUTION, some way to earn your place back in the graces of the family for the dishonor you had brought. The system was very clear to everybody.

When you use the word INHERITANCE, you're talking about everything that comes with the material. INHERITANCE involves the people who are working on the estate (provision for their needs), the management of the estate, the leadership, the responsibility to provide for the family. When you receive your inheritance from your father, you literally are receiving the responsibility to manage all the assets of the estate on behalf of the family who are alive.

Is this scenario familiar to us? Nowadays, there are young people who want both worlds: freedom to choose what they want in life and at the same time they want their parents to spend for what they want.

The WEALTH is what the family in different generations has produced. The younger son doesn't care of how hard the family in different generations has worked hard for. He doesn't care about family. He doesn't care about his relationship with the family. All he cares about is selfish self.

Just like the younger son, people usually have no relationship with God whatsoever. People don't love God, don't care about God, want nothing to do with God, want nothing to do with the family of God, want nothing to do with the future of the family of God. Some people don't want to have accountability to God, want no interest in God, don't want to answer to God, don't want to submit to God, don't want any kind of relationship at all. These are people who will do it as long as it will make them happy. These are the people who don't care if it's right before God as long as it is right in their own eyes.

SHAMELESS REBELLION

Now, let's talk about shameless rebellion. "Not long after that." The younger son didn't wait long. He couldn't wait. He's sick of being in the father's presence.

In the story, the younger son is sick of having any accountability or relationship with the family. He has no love for his father. He has absolutely no love for his older brother either and his older brother has no love for him. By the way, the older brother has no love for the father either. You heard me right. The older brother has no love for the father. In fact, when the boy comes home and the father is happy, the older brother got angry. He doesn't care about his dad's feelings whatsoever. Even though he stayed at home, he is equally unloving, equally ungrateful. He is the hypocrite in the house. This older brother is used by Jesus to rebuke the Pharisees and scribes. These are two kinds of people who have no relationship with God: IRRELIGIOUS and RELIGIOUS. One is as far away from God as he can get. The other is as close as he can be. One doesn't want to attend the church. The other attends the church, so religious, but in reality doesn't care about God.

This is often man's foolishness. He wants to get away from God. He wants no accountability to God. He sells cheap all of the opportunities that God has provided for him, all the good gifts, all the gospel opportunities, everything that's good that God has put into his world.

Sin is rebellion against God the Father. Sin is definitely disrespect for God's law, but before that, it's disrespect for God's person, God's authority, God's will. It is avoiding all responsibility, all accountability. Sin is to deny God His place. It is to hate God. Sin is to waste your life.



1.) Share if there was a time when you are at a breaking point wherein you are ready to turn your back from the Lord?

2.) How did you trace your way back to Him?

3.) What did you learn from today's message?