
SERMON NOTES December 19, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Luke 15:11-32
The Deluded Son
Pastor Mike

I. Two lost sons representing two _____

a. The younger son represents _____

b. The older son represents _____

II. The one core problem is _____

Both valued the father's _____ over his _____

III. The reality of the older brother's _____

IV. Characteristics of _____ lostness

a. Obey out of _____ to earn _____

b. Anger when God fails _____

c. Demand relationship on _____

V. The invitation to the _____

a. The only way in is through _____

b. Our _____ or _____ of the invitation

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. When most people think of the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), they think of it as a story of the one lost son, the younger son. But when you dive into the whole story, it becomes clear that Jesus is telling a story about two lost sons.
 - a. When you have looked at this story before, did you see it as a story about one lost son or two lost sons? If you had not seen this before, what surprised you about this perspective on the story?
 - b. The story is commonly known as the story of the prodigal son, referring only to the younger son. Why do we tend to focus on the lostness of only the younger son?
 - c. What are some of the differences in the ways that the older son was lost than the younger son? What are the similarities where their core problem of lostness was the same?
2. In his message, Pastor Mike talked about how the two lost sons represented two ways we can be lost or alienated from God, and that both represented two different wrong views of God.
 - a. Is being lost or alienated from our relationship with God always the result of a wrong view of God? Why or why not?
 - b. Pastor Mike said that the younger son symbolized the wrong view of God of relativism. How would you describe this as it expresses itself in our contemporary culture? How can this view of God impact your own relationship with God?
 - c. Pastor Mike said that the older son symbolized the wrong view of God of religion. How would you describe this as it expresses itself in our contemporary culture? How can this view of God impact your own relationship with God?
 - d. Are you personally more likely to fall into the lie of relativism or religion? Explain your answer.
3. Both last week when we looked at the younger son and this week Pastor Mike said that sin isn't ultimately our breaking of the rules, but it's in rejecting the father and being alienated from God. How can this be true of a religious person, like the older brother. How can a person be religious and still be alienated from a real relationship with God?
4. In his message, Pastor Mike taught that like his younger brother, the older brother valued the father's things over a relationship with the father. It is obvious how the younger son did this, but how was this true of the older brother? If this is a parable about us, how can you do this in your own life?
5. Pastor Mike taught that a characteristic of religious lostness is when we get angry when God fails to deliver what we expect him to. We become angry when God doesn't answer a prayer in the way or time we expect, or/and doesn't give us what we think we deserve.
 - a. Pastor Mike shared that in his experience as a pastor, this is one of the main reasons that people walk away from the church or drift away from their relationship with God. Has this ever been a struggle for you personally? If so, how have you dealt with it, or how are you dealing with it?
 - b. When we reject God because we feel that he has failed to give us what we expect or what we deserve, what does our reaction say about our underlying belief about God? How does this reveal how we value God's things over our relationship with God?