



Key Scripture:

Luke 15:11–32 (ESV)

[Read from v11] 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.’ 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.”

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.’”

“One son was separated physically from his father’s house, but both were alienated from their father’s heart.” – Wes on Sunday

Discussion Questions:

In Luke 15 Jesus tells the crowd three similar parables. **From Luke 15:1-2 what was interesting about the mix of people that Jesus was speaking to?**

Wes on Sunday said, *“Jesus had the toughest crowd. He had to somehow extend the kingdom of God to the Pharisee & the sinner.”*
What are some of the biggest divisions between people in Nanaimo?

Read Luke 15:11-17. Wes said that *“the world-view of today is self-discovery with self-gratification as the goal.”* **How are we seeing this being played out within culture today? How does that compare to how the younger son was living?**

In v17-24, what stands out most to you about how the younger son was welcomed back by the father? How does that compare with how we are adopted by God?

If the younger brother’s failing was recklessness & self-discovery, **what was the sin & disconnection of the older brother in v25-32? How does the older son’s anger in v28-30 mirror the grumbling of the gathered Pharisees in v2?**

On the surface, the older brother was living a morally better life. **But by the end of this parable which son had a better relationship with his father?**

Jesus was using the older brother to call out the Pharisees. And today as Christians we might feel quite unlike the traditional Pharisees. **But, what warning should we take for ourselves from the older brother?**

Wes said, *“If you can’t celebrate when the Father celebrates it reveals something in our hearts that needs to change.”* **Have you ever felt jealous of another believer? What needs to change in our hearts?**

What has most challenged you out of Sunday’s message, this parable, and the interaction between the self-righteous and the sinners?