



## I. REVIEW/INTRO

A. Home series

B. Luke 15 is reflective of the Father's heart – he's looking for the lost

- The religious leaders had been missing the point

**Luke 15:1-2 (NLT) Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. <sup>2</sup> This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!**

**Their question really was – Jesus why are you spending time with sinners?**

**Luke 15:3 (TLB) So Jesus used this illustration:**

- This story was about a shepherd who had 100 sheep and lost one

**Luke 15:8 (TLB) <sup>8</sup> “Or take another illustration:**

- She had ten coins – each is worth about 10 days wages – misplaces one

C. The story we know as the prodigal son

**Luke 15:11-12 (NLT) <sup>11</sup> To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.**

- The core of this story is a kid who made some bad mistakes and horrible decisions that left him feeling distant from the father. He ran away from home and ended up feeling unworthy, embarrassed, ashamed and alone.

## II. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

A. We love the story of the prodigal because we need and been the recipient of grace

**Luke 15:25-28a (TLB) <sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working; when he returned home, he heard dance music coming from the house, <sup>26</sup> and he asked one of the servants what was going on. <sup>27</sup> “Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the calf we were fattening and has prepared a great feast to celebrate his coming home again unharmed.’ <sup>28</sup> “The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in...**

- He's angry because he doesn't think that the younger brother should get anything

B. The older brother didn't go anywhere yet he is as distant as the younger one was

**Luke 15:28b-30 (TLB) ... his father came out and begged him, <sup>29</sup> but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to; and in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. <sup>30</sup> Yet when this son of yours**



comes back after spending your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have on the place.'

### III. WHO MISSED THE PARTY?

- A. Who ended up missing the party?
  - The elder brother who was trying to prove a point
- B. We're taught a lot about the "self-destructive" behavior of the prodigal but
  - Self-destructive behavior isn't as dangerous as self-righteous behavior

**Luke 15:31 (TLB)** <sup>31</sup> "'Look, dear son,' his father said to him, 'you and I are very close, and everything I have is yours.'

**Luke 15:32 (TLB)** <sup>32</sup> But it is right to celebrate. For he is your brother; and he was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!'"

- C. The father couldn't understand why the older son didn't love the younger like he did

### IV. LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES

- A. Remember the context of the story
  - They didn't like that he was eating with "sinners" and tax collectors
  - And when the story just ends – he's basically saying that's why I'm eating with sinners – and asking – **what are you going to do?**
- B. The rest of the story
  - Eventually the party would end and they'd be working side by side in the father's fields

**Matthew 28:18-20 (TLB)** <sup>18</sup> He told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world.

- C. Don't lose sight that God's wants a bigger party
- D. We do what we do – not to "earn" a party but to create a "bigger" party