

The Gospel of Luke

A Father and Two Sons: The Younger Son

Luke 15:11-24

1. **The Relationship Between the Younger Son and the Father** (v.12)

The way in which the younger son speaks and acts toward his father shows that he has absolutely no love for him, no thankfulness for what he has done for him, and no desire to be near him. His attitude toward his father epitomizes the flagrant reviling of God by sinners.

2. **The Rebellion of the Younger Son Against the Father** (vs.13-16)

The younger son immediately liquidated his assets and went to live riotously in a gentile land as a further manifestation of his alienation from his father. His actions are expressions of the sinful repudiation of his father's goodness. This is the sort of lifestyle and testimony that characterized the tax collectors and sinners who had come to hear Jesus, and with whom He continually received.

3. **The Repentance of the Younger Son Toward the Father** (vs.17-20)

A. A Unique Perception of His Father's Goodness (v.17)

B. An Unequivocal Acknowledgement of His Sin (v.18)

C. An Unflattering Evaluation of His Current Condition (v.19)

D. An Ultimate Pursuit of His Father's Mercy (v.20)

4. **The Restoration of the Younger Son by the Father** (vs.22)

The homecoming reception that the younger son received was far greater than his wildest hope or imagination. Before he is able to speak his the newly realized and well-rehearsed convictions, his father welcomed him back and into a place of honor. These shameless actions of the father toward his prodigal son were culturally unimaginable.

5. **The Rejoicing Over the Younger Son by the Father** (vs.23-24)

The lost sheep and lost coin had value and so a celebration was reasonable and expected when they were found (vs.7, 10). The younger son, however, had lived the very life typical of the tax collectors and sinners yet was celebrated when he repented before his father. There is no sin that is so great that will prevent God from receiving a repentant sinner and celebrating over their repentance.