

You Can Begin Again

When You Come Home - Part 1

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – November 5, 2017

1. Read Luke 15:11-32. Open in prayer.
2. Read Luke 15:11-13.
 - a. "'give me the share of the estate that falls to me'" This did not belong to him until his father's death. It would involve one-third of the estate with two-thirds going to the oldest son (cf. Deut. 21:17). This shows a rebellious, unloving, independent spirit. This very question would have been unheard of in eastern culture. This implies a desire for the father's death.
 - b. "So he divided his wealth between them" There are several cultural and legal reasons for an early inheritance to be given, but not at the request of a son! The father's actions in allowing this inappropriate and culturally unheard of request do not denote God's character, but is a literary device to accentuate God's undeserved and overwhelming love and forgiveness later in the parable. As for the older son, his silence at both the brother's request and the father's action would be unforgivable in eastern culture. He should have vigorously protested. He also will be singled out for censure at the conclusion of the parable. As a matter of fact, he represents the attitudes of the Pharisees. (Will they accept sinners like God does, or will he reject his brother?)
 - c. Pastor Derwin said, "The younger son was L.O.S.T."
 - **L**onely. His foolish living separated him from his father's love, the one who truly cared for him.
 - **O**verwhelmed. His foolish living and separation from his father's love was overwhelming to the point that as a Jew, not only was he working for a Gentile, he was willing to eat pig food. Sin will take you further than you want to go and cost you more than you have to give.
 - **S**cared. He didn't even think his father would love him like a son. He wanted to be a hired servant (Luke 15:17-19).
 - **T**ired. Idolatry (sin) always makes one's soul tired. Sin decays the soul.
 - d. Discuss insights and practical applications to your own life.

(1) Utley, R. J. (2004). The Gospel According to Luke (Vol. Volume 3A, Lk 15:12). Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International.

(2) Utley, R. J. (2004). The Gospel According to Luke (Vol. Volume 3A, Lk 15:12). Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International.

3. Read Luke 15:17-19.

- The younger son came to his senses (repentance).
 - o What is repentance? And why is it vital to our lives?
 - o As the younger son rehearsed his repentance speech, who did he ask for forgiveness from first, and why is that important?

4. Read Luke 15:20. Pastor Derwin said, "The Abba is compassionate, because He is love."

- a. The Abba felt compassion for his son. Compassion means to "suffer with." Even though the younger son was rebellious and disrespectful, his Abba suffered with him the pain and shame from his foolish living. Love always suffers with because love always cares. Love cares so much that Love suffers on the cross, so we can come home.
- b. Some Bible scholars observe a Jewish custom between the lines: when a son disgraces his father through sinful behavior, runs away from him, and then later returns, the leaders of the city take the young man to the village center and break a pot at his feet. The broken pot is a legal act of banishment. These scholars also think, in this parable, the Abba runs to his son so that he can prevent the really awful event he fears: others banning him from the community if they reach him first. Jesus ran to the cross so we would not be banned from God's family.
- c. What insights and practical life applications do you have?

5. Pastor Derwin used the acronym LOVE:

- Life-giving (Read Psalm 63:3)
- Overcoming (Read Romans 8:1)
- Victorious (Read Romans 8:37) (Jesus can conquer our sin as we walk by faith in the Spirit's power.)
- Ever-present (Read Romans 8:38-39)

6. **Soul-tattoo:** Come back home. Repent of ways or areas in your life in which you have left the Abba's home and His faithful love.

Close in prayer.