



October 19-20, 2019 Sermon

“The Prodigal Son” – Part 2

Luke 15:25-32

Home Group discussion questions are written by Pastor Art Hunt.
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Connect: Can anyone in the group remember a time when you compared yourself to another Christian and thought something like: “I serve the Lord better than him/her and yet he/she seems better off than I do!” or some version of those thoughts? (Obviously, this would have not been a spiritually mature moment!) Come on! Be vulnerable and talk about it nonetheless. How did those thoughts make you feel? How did you resolve the feelings?

1. Read 15:25-28a: The Older Brother’s Reaction.

- In its rawest form, what is the older brother really angry about?
- In what way are both brothers alienated from the Father? Pick one or two words that describes the state of the prodigal’s alienation and one word for the state of the older brother alienation. What is needed for each of them to be reconciled?
- Why, in fact, does the elder brother obey his father?
- Think of a time that you have been angry at God. What has been the usual bottom line “why”? Not getting what you want? Felt you were treated unjustly? Not getting answers?
- How did the anger bloom in your heart? Were you self-aware about what was going on? Did you take your thoughts and emotions to God in real time?
- How did you resolve your anger? Did time help give perspective? What helped the most in your journey? Did you grow in the process?

2. Read 15:28b-30: Conversation between Father and Son

- Summarize the primary complaint the son gives his father. What might be an equivalent complaint for any Christian? In other words, what might make any Christian feel angry if she compared her fortunes to another Christian’s?
- What doesn’t the older brother understand about the motives behind his Father’s actions? How is the Father’s perspective different than the older son’s?
- What does the Father mean when He says, “Everything I have is yours”? How is that true of all believers?
- What is the practical, every-day result of knowing that the *“Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. . .has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing. . .”* (See Eph 1:3-14 to count these blessings.)
- Why should the Father’s assurance have been of comfort to the son, as well as an encouragement to rejoice about his brother’s restoration?

3. Read 15:31: Final Words. We never hear about the older son’s reaction to the Father’s words. Why do you suppose Jesus didn’t “resolve” this story?

- If Jesus wants us to put ourselves in this elder brother’s place, what attitudes do you think He’s encouraging in us?
- What do you walk away with from this discussion that will encourage you with for the week?

Notes to Home Group Leaders
(Do Not Include in Group Notes)

- Remember, you can use these questions as is; or you can create your own discussion questions, taking from this document as a like. Remember too, that you do not have to go through every question! That is, if you have 30 minutes for the group discussion, keep track of the time, and use the questions as best you can!
- I've been providing connect questions, but I know that this may not suit you or your group. My purpose however, is to provide something that allows your group to open up to each other, but which relates to the passage being discussed. You may or may not like to start that way. It's OK, whatever you choose!
- My first question about the older brother, I think the answer revolves around his rights. He thinks its unjust that the Father has made a unilateral decision, leaving him out! He's mad because his "goodness," his obedience, hasn't earned him rights. So, in the long run both sons are alienated by different sins; the prodigal by greed—love for things rather than the father—and the older son by pride. The elder brother obeys his Father to get things!