

Introduction:

Text: Luke 15:11-32

Big Idea: Experiencing the Father's love is the starting point of living a restored life.

A. The damaging attitude of the lost son and the older brother:

The lost son:

Selfish (v.12)
Self-absored (v.13)
Self-indulgent (v.13)

The older brother:

Selfish (v.25-28)
Self-righteous (v. 29-30)
Self-centered (v.29-30)

B. The loving Father's response to the lost son and the older brother:

The lost son:

He received him (v.20)
He restored him (v.22)
He rejoiced in his homecoming (v.24)

The older brother:

He reasond with him (v.28)
He reassured him (v.31)
He reminded him of his brother's worth (v.32)

C. Life Application: Insights from the life of the lost son on how to experience the restoring love of the Father:

1. Return to the Father (v.17)
2. Repent of our ways (v.19-20)
3. Receive His restoring love (v. 20-24)

Read Luke 15:11-32 and answer the following questions:

1. In verses 11-14 the Bible says, *"The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living."* Just like the lost son in the parable, what do you think are the main reasons why some people chose to turn their backs on God and live their lives as if He does not exist?

2. In verses 13-16 the Bible says that, *"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything."*

Looking at what happened to the lost son, what are the obvious consequences people may experience when they live their lives as if God does not exist? How will it affect their relationships, finances, and spiritual condition?

3. In verse 17 we can see that the lost son came to his senses and decided to come home to his Father. What do you think are the reasons why some people have to learn the hard way before they come to their senses and realize the need of God in their lives?

4. In verses 20-24, we can see the restoring love of the Father to his lost son when He ran to him with open arms to receive him, and rejoiced in his homecoming. Was there ever a time in your life when you have experienced the restoring love of the Father? If yes, how did it change your attitude? How did it affect your view of God as your heavenly Father?

5. If you read the begging on Luke chapter 15, we can see that Jesus had two types of audiences that He was addressing to in this parable: the *obvious sinners* in society (Ex. tax collectors, drunkards, prostitutes etc.), which represented the lost son in the parable, and the *Pharisees or the religious leaders*, which represented the older brother, who was self-righteous and had a "holy than thou" attitude. Between the two audiences, whom do you relate to the most and why?

6. One of our values as a church is **"People Matter: Our Ministry Motivation"**. In your life group, suggest some practical ways on how you can show the restoring love of the Father to people who don't know Jesus, or to people who have wandered from the faith.

Conclusion:

PRAY!