

You're That Guy

Luke 15:11-19

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Nov. 6, 2022

VOTE PROLIFE!

YES ON 2

YES FOR LIFE!

Luke 15:11-19 “And He said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. · And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. · Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. · And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. · So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. · And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. · But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! · I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. · I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’””

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. You're missing the point if you don't see the prodigal son as symbolic of you.

Luke 15:12 “And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’”

A. God doesn't distinguish between sins like we do.

1 John 5:17 “All wrongdoing is sin...”

1 John 3:4 “Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; **sin is lawlessness.**”

Romans 3:21-23 “But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— · the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. **For there is no distinction: · for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**”

James 2:10 “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become **guilty of all of it.**”

B. Before you were saved, whether walking or running, you were headed to “a far country.”

Luke 15:13 “Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.”

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way...”

1 Peter 2:25 “For you were straying like sheep...”

II. You're missing the point if you don't know that you were headed for certain, inescapable death apart from Christ.

Luke 15:16 "And he was **longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate**, and no one gave him anything."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."

James 1:14-15 "But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, **and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.**"

Ephesians 2:1-3 "And **you were dead** in the trespasses and sins **in which you once walked**, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **among whom we all once lived** in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, **and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**"

III. You're missing the point if you don't know it was solely by God's grace that you came to Christ!

Luke 15:17-18 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father...'"

Ephesians 2:4-5 "**But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which **He loved us**, even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ—**by grace you have been saved.**"

Titus 3:5-6 "He saved us, **not because of works done by us** in righteousness, but according to **His own mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewal **of the Holy Spirit**, whom **He poured out on us** richly through Jesus Christ our Savior."

John 1:12-13 "But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, **He gave the right to become children of God**, who were born, not of blood **nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**"

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

- 1) Why is it so easy for us to read parables and teachings of Jesus and think of how they apply to others before applying it to ourselves?
- 2) How do you feel about the fact that God doesn't distinguish between sins like we tend to?
- 3) Pastor Peter said "If you don't realize the younger son is symbolic of you, you won't love sinners like Jesus did." Why is that true?
- 4) Why is it important to understand that, regardless of the circumstances surrounding your life when you were saved, you were like the younger brother and were in "a far country"?
- 5) Why do you think the Scriptures repeatedly remind us that our salvation is God's doing and not our own?