

Choose Your Own Adventure

Luke 15:25-32

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / November 20, 2022

Luke 15:25-32 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

I. If you can't celebrate God's saving grace in others, it's because you never received it yourself.

Luke 15:28 “But he was angry and refused to go in...”

A. You'll never celebrate new life because you'll remain dead inside.

Matthew 23:27-28 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, **but within are full of dead people's bones** and all uncleanness. ²⁸ So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

Revelation 3:1 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of Him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. **I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.**’”

B. You'll be deluded into thinking you're better than you are, so you'll never think you need God's grace.

Luke 15:29 “...but he answered his father, ‘Look, **these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command...**’”

If you're impressed with yourself, you won't be impressed with God.

C. You'll be angry that God hasn't given you what you want for your selfish desires.

Luke 15:29 “...yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.”

D. You'll view others according to what they've done instead of who they are.

Luke 15:30 “But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!”

E. You’ll be too bitter, angry, and proud to listen to God’s call to “come home.”

Luke 15:31-32 “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

F. You’ll remain an enemy of God instead of becoming His child.

Luke 22:1-2 “Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. ²And the chief priests and the scribes **were seeking how to put Him to death...**”

John 5:18 “This was why **the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him...**”

John 7:1 “He would not go about in Judea, because **the Jews were seeking to kill Him.**”

John 8:37 “I know that you are offspring of Abraham; **yet you seek to kill Me** because My word finds no place in you.”

John 8:40 “...**but now you seek to kill Me**, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.”

John 11:53 “So from that day on **they made plans to put Him to death.**”

Acts 2:23 “This Jesus...**you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.**”

Acts 2:36 “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, **this Jesus whom you crucified.**”

II. **The invitation to come home and celebrate is still open to all today!**

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. **We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.** ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Revelation 22:17 “The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Pastor Peter said it’s important to “find yourself in the story.” Which character do you resonate with the most? Was there ever a time when you resonated more with another character?
2. When was the last time you were wrong?
3. Recall the ending Pastor Peter suggested, and explain the thinking behind it.
4. Read Acts 2:22-23, Isaiah 53, and 2 Corinthians 5:21. Explain the “divine irony” that when the Jews did their worst, they actually accomplished God’s best.