

Sermon: The Story of Our Salvation.
Series: Luke: The Gospel for Everyone.

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32.
Date: May 18, 2025

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Do you relate more closely to the younger son or the older son? Self-centered sin, or self-righteous sin? Are you more likely to run away from God or to try to earn God?
- b) In what ways was the older son's self-righteousness even more deadly than the younger son's self-centered rebellion?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) We listed several character traits of the Father in the story which are the character traits of God: Love, Forgiveness, Grace, Reconciliation, Joy. Which of these character traits of God stands out to you the most from this parable? Would you add any other characteristics to this list?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Look at 15:18-19. The younger son plans to be a "hired servant" to his Father. But in verse 20 we see the extravagant grace of the Father toward the son. How does this grace change the younger son's statement in verse 21? Why must the grace of God precede any true repentance that we might offer to him?
- b) Over the years some have argued that the Prodigal Son story is incomplete because it lacks atonement (payment for sin). Do you agree with this? What part of the parable do you see pointing most directly to the atonement of Christ and the cross? OR...in what way is the Father in the story a picture of Christ and his sacrifice for our sins?

APPLICATION

- a) Jesus constructed the parable so that it would be understood that to reconcile with the Father the brothers would also have to reconcile. Do you have any brothers or sisters in Christ that you need to seek reconciliation with? Are there any ways in which you have been trying to be God's "hired worker," or slave while avoiding real relationships with other believers?
- b) We said that God's grace doesn't just forgive us but it also restores us to what we were meant to be – sons and daughters of God. Read Galatians 4:1-7. How might your attitude or perspective be different if you really believed that you are a son with an inheritance and not a slave.

PRAYER

- Praise God for being a compassionate and gracious Father to us.
- Confess ways that you have been self-centered or self-righteous.
- Thank Jesus for finding us with the "pigs" and restoring us to the Father.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to reconcile with your brothers and sisters in Christ.