

TELL ME A STORY

Message #7 "Angry Birds"

Luke 15:1-3

Pastor Phil Whetstone

August 9, 2020

"Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 Then Jesus told them this parable:..." vs 1-3

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them... Luke 15:11-32

The prodigal's heart who left was filled with shame.

*"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am **no longer worthy** to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; **he was lost and is found.**' So they began to celebrate.*

The father's heart was filled with compassion.

1. **Our Father never stops watching.** vs 20

"...but while he was still a long way off..."

2. **Our Father never stops loving.** vs 20

"...His father saw him and was filled with compassion for him;"

3. **Our Father is always willing to accept us at home.** vs 20

"He ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him."

4. **Our Father is always willing to restore.** vs 22

"Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate."

5. **Our Father celebrates when lost things are found.**

Lost sheep vs 6 *"Rejoice with me"*

Lost coin vs 9 *"Rejoice with me"*

Lost son vs 23 *"Let's have a feast and celebrate"*

*"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 "The older brother became **angry and refused to go in**. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when **this son of yours** who has squandered your property with **prostitutes** comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always **with me**, and **everything I have is yours**. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" vs 28-32*

The elder brother's heart was filled with anger.

4 REALITIES OF ANGRY BIRD FAITH

1. Sonship is about obligation. vs 29
"I've been slaving for you."

2. Sonship is about performance. vs 29
"never disobeyed your orders"

"God could not love you more and nothing you can do could cause God to love you less."

3. Sonship is joyless. vs 31
"My son...you are always with me, and everything I have is yours."

4. Withdraws us from the Father. vs 28-30
*"The older brother became **angry and refused to go in**. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when **this son of yours** who has squandered your property with **prostitutes** comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' vs 28-30*

He refuses to refer to his "Father" - **"Look"**
He refuses to acknowledge his "brother"- **"this son of yours"**
He refuses to come inside - **"refused to go in"**

"It's one thing to lose a child who walks away. It's another thing to lose a child who stays at home but rejects your heart. I'm not sure which hurts more." Pastor Phil

QUESTIONS

Which son in the story do you tend to find yourself identifying with more? Why?

The older brother in the story tended to follow rules, obey out of obligation, and be angry. Do you see any of those tendencies in your life? Why do you think that is true?

The younger brother dealt with a lot of shame. God never wants us to keep reliving the past. He invites us to ask forgiveness, and leave the past behind. If you identify with this brother, this is a great time to have a talk with your Father and ask Him to forgive you.

Sometimes we need to ask ourselves some questions to see where we are at with the Lord. Take a few moments today to do a self-evaluation.

- Am I filled with drudgery, obligation, or a lack of fellowship?
- Are you experiencing joy in your walk with the Lord?
- Do you experience regular times of fellowship with the Father?
- Are you an angry or joy-filled Christian?

God's grace for everyone is **radical** - it is not deserved, it is not earned, it is simply accepted. If you have not accepted His grace, then you are not enjoying what He wants for you. The way home for a prodigal who has left and a prodigal who is depending on his own strength is repentance & surrender.

Repentance means we are sorry and willing to change.

Surrender means we are willing to release control and ownership to God

This is a great time talking to the Lord and dealing with the distance you are feeling in your life. Be honest with Him. If you need to confess some wrong attitudes, then do it. If you need to release some areas of anger, then this is a great time.

SERVICE TIMES

- **Sunday Morning 8:00 AM** - Heritage Service
- **Sunday Morning 9:40 AM** - CW Family Service
- **Sunday Morning 11:10 AM** - CW Family Service

****No Saturday or Sunday evening services during Brown City Camp**

UPCOMING EVENTS

For all our upcoming online and in-person events, go to our website at: www.cwmc.church/event