

“But the greatest of these is LOVE!”

Part 2: “The love of the Father ...”

Luke 15:11-32



Introduction: This message is for those who have heard about the one TRUE God who has revealed Himself as our Creator.

Repentance opens the door to a relationship with the Father!!

John 6:44: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.” (See also Matthew 11:27; John 3:19).

I. The setting of the parable ...

Luke 15:1-2: “This man receives sinners ...” (vs. 2).

People today think Jesus’ goal here is to put “religious” people in their place!

Luke 15:3-10: “ ... there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (vs. 10).

The point Jesus is making has nothing to do with the ninety-nine ... the point is about the ONE !!

Luke 5:30-32: “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance!” (vs. 32).

Jesus is telling both the “sinners” and the Pharisees something that NEITHER group yet understands.

II. The lesson of the parable ...

There is not one person who does not need to “repent,” to turn away from sin, to confess Jesus as Lord and to live for HIM rather than for yourself. (See Romans 3:10)

Jesus was revealing something in all three of these parables that He wanted them to know about GOD, about His Father ...

Repentance opens the door to a relationship with the Father!!

People who think they are “good” people, “righteous” people, will never truly know God, will never grieve over their sin and will never truly repent.

Psalm 51:1-4,9-12,15-17: “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise” (vs. 17).

The lesson of these parables is what those who refuse to repent will miss ... now and in eternity: a relationship with the God who is “Abba, Father” to His children.

Luke 15:11-24: “While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him” (vs. 20).

Jesus is NOT teaching that the outward act of realizing your life is in the pits and “turning” to some “God” you don’t know makes everything right ... without the cross, without faith in Him.

Luke 15:25-32: “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours” (vs. 31).

God does not offer a “religion” to us ... He offers Himself ... a relationship with the living God!!!

“Religion” may give you a temporary feeling of “wellness,” but if that’s ALL you have you are fooling only yourself!

III. The response to the parable ...

JESUS demands a response that only those who are born again by the Spirit of God can and will give: REPENTANCE !!!

It is not enough to turn from something! The “something” (SELF) must be replaced by some ONE !!

True faith is not simply believing in forgiveness ... true faith is believing that loving God because He FIRST loved YOU makes life worth living.

The only response to God’s love in Christ that confirms you are a child of God is your love for HIM!!!