

How to Get What You Really Want: The Prodigal Son

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Sunday, October 25, 2020
Luke 15:1-2, 11-24; Mark 11:25;
Romans 8:17

¹ The tax collectors and sinners all came to listen to Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to complain: “Look, this man welcomes sinners and even eats with them.”
Luke 15:1–2

These are the “them” people that make good people angry! This is a parable about Forgiveness.

¹¹ Then Jesus said, “A man had two sons. ¹² The younger son said to his father, ‘Give me my share of the property.’ So the father divided the property between his two sons.
Luke 15:11–12

¹³ Then the younger son gathered up all that was his and traveled far away to another country. There he wasted his money in foolish living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, a time came when there was no food anywhere in the country, and the son was poor and hungry. Luke 15:13-14

¹⁵ So he got a job with one of the citizens there who sent the son into the fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ The son was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pods the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. Luke 15:15-16

¹⁷ When he realized what he was doing, he thought, ‘All of my father’s servants have plenty of food. But I am here, almost dying with hunger. ¹⁸ I will leave and return to my father and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against God and against you. Luke 15:17-18

¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son, but let me be like one of your servants.” ’ ^{20a} So the son left and went to his father. Luke 15:19-20a

^{20b} While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for his son. So the father ran to him and hugged and kissed him. Luke 15:20b

²¹ The son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ Luke 15:21

²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Luke 15:22

²³ And get our fat calf and kill it so we can have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!' So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:23-24

Forgiveness is assertive. Forgiveness is aggressive, it is on the offensive.

Father doesn't wait for the son to grovel or apologize. He forgives without condition.

The son has wronged and robbed his father in two ways: Financial and Reputation

¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son, but let me be like one of your servants." ' "

Luke 15:19

The son is saying I will pay my debt, I will pay it all back.

Forgiveness is absorbing loss and pain! A grudge is inflicting loss and pain!

Forgiveness is always a form of suffering.

²⁵ When you are praying, if you are angry with someone, forgive him so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins. Mark 11:25

¹⁷ If we are God's children, we will receive blessings from God together with Christ. But we must suffer as Christ suffered so that we will have glory as Christ has glory.

Romans 8:17

Forgiveness means kissing them in your heart. Your will, their good. You pray for their good.

You have to have this inside of you. The Father looked and he had compassion.

Forgiveness is easy, if you have the money. It is really hard to impossible, if you don't.

Jesus pays for you. He was absorbing our debt.

Resist Superiority: All grudges and resentment are based on superiority. You can't stay mad at people to whom you don't feel superior.

"Vengeance is a video tape planted in your soul that you can't turn off." Forgiveness turns off the tape.

"When life is bad, we live looking backward; when life is good, we live looking forward."

~ Kyle Rizzo