



Meriden Hills Baptist

Your kind of church

Luke 15:11

September 3, 2017 PM

The Prodigal Son

I. The Father

- A. This father had two sons and each chose a different path. (vs. 13, 25)
 - 1. Challenge: We are responsible for how we raise our children. (Ephesians 6:4)
 - 2. Encouragement: Even the best fathers cannot force their children into a godly lifestyle.
- B. This father allowed his adult son to make his mistakes and suffer the consequences. (v. 12)
 - 1. Challenge: We must be careful not to take the place of God in the lives of our adult children.
 - 2. Encouragement: Once we have given our children to God, they are in much better hands.
- C. This father took the opportunity to counsel his son. (vs. 25-31)
 - 1. Challenge: Fathers cannot get so focused on their immediate surroundings that they lose sight of what is truly important... their family.
 - 2. Encouragement: Fathers hold a great amount of influence with their children when the child knows they are loved.

II. The Son

- A. This son was from a rich family. (v. 17)
 - 1. Challenge: Money cannot draw a family closer together...all too often money breaks relationships rather than creating them.
 - 2. Encouragement: Wealth is not a requirement for a strong family.
- B. This son remembered his father when all others forsook him. (vs. 16-17)

1. Challenge: Discipline is important when raising children, but without love, discipline becomes abuse. This father must have proved his love or the son would not have considered his father's forgiveness as realistic.
 2. Encouragement: Your children may not seem to pay attention to your advice or direction now, but there may come a day when they "come to their senses" and return to their family.
- C. This son realized an important truth, by sinning against his father, he had sinned against God. (v. 18)
1. Challenge: Fathers hold great authority over their children, we must be careful not to abuse that God-ordained authority.
 2. Encouragement: God has not only given fathers the authority to raise their children, He has also given them instruction on how to accomplish the task.

III. The Reunion

A. Repentance. (v. 21)

1. The son humbled himself before his father, willing to be a servant. (vs. 18-19)
2. The son did not just make an emotional decision that shortly faded away. He had to travel back home to accomplish his act of repentance. (v. 20)

B. Forgiveness. (vs. 22-2)

1. The father ran to greet his son and showed love even before the son verbally repented.
2. The father did not chastise his son, but rather chose to look toward their future relationship.

C. Restoration. (v. 24)

1. The son was given a place back in the family
2. Although the son was allowed to stay, there were still consequences for his decisions.
 - a. The younger son must also work on restoring his relationship with his older brother. (vs. 29-30)
 - b. He already spent his inheritance and would receive no more from the father. (v. 31)