

Sunday Message Meditation – December 14, 2014

Message Text: *Luke 15*

Message Meditation: The Parable of the Gracious and Generous Father and His Two Sons
(one is found and the other is lost).

What's not in the parable, but revealed elsewhere in the Scripture:

1. **The restored life of the repentant younger brother.**
 - a. The restored life of the repentant younger brother would be a life marked with:
 - i. Thankfulness.
 - ii. Continued faith in the Father's goodness resulting in increasing obedience.
 - iii. Growth in faith and grace as the Father completes the work that He began.
 1. The Father's discipline of the sons he loves.
 2. The Father's perseverance toward the maturity of His children.
 - b. The restored son is not a perfected son – but he is in the family, and he is being perfected. He is securely in the good care of his father.
2. **The repentance of the older brother.**
 - a. Repentance is possible. The father pursues the son to restore him to the family.
 - b. Repentance is necessary. He is just as lost as the rebellious younger brother was.
 - c. Repentance would result in the same restoration – for it is the same love of the same father.
 - d. Repentance would put the religious sinners and the rebellious sinners in the same category - needing to rely completely on the father's mercy and grace.
 - i. It takes humility for the younger brother to come home empty handed, with a testimony the he has wasted everything.
 - ii. It takes humility for the older brother to come home empty handed, with a testimony that his "good life" hasn't contributed a thing and he is no better than the younger brother.
3. **An awesome older brother who is just like the father.**
 - a. There isn't an awesome older brother in the parable, and it makes us wish that one was there.
 - b. The parable-teller, Jesus, is the Awesome Older Brother.
 - i. Jesus makes repentance possible. He is the way to a restored relationship with God.
 - ii. Jesus paid for our restoration.
 - iii. Jesus, like the Father, rejoices when sinners repent, and he will serve at the feast in His father's kingdom.
 - c. God so loves sinners that He sent His Only Son on a rescue mission of seeking and saving lost children. Everyone who agrees with God (that they are in need of a Savior and that Jesus is the Savior of His provision), and places their faith in Jesus, God graciously and generously welcomes them into His family as restored children.