



Homegroup Material Sunday 16th June, Sermon Series: Combe Down Fest: Father's Day Luke 15:11-32

Re-read this parable and try to pay attention to the details, even though the basic story is probably familiar to you.

1. Tim described this parable as the 'Loving Father'; others have described it as the 'Prodigal/Lost Son', and others as the 'Two Sons'. Which do you think best captures the story?
2. The younger son rejects the love of the father (vv.12-16). Rejection can sometimes be silent, even unintentional, or it can be very obvious. How did this rejection of the love of God look in your own life (perhaps before conversion)?
3. Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21. Whilst this story of Jesus does not relate directly to the sort of scenario envisaged in Deut.21, there are certainly some connections. How does this OT context add to the shocking love of the Father described in Luke 15:20-24?
4. The kindness shown to the younger son is in some senses scandalous (as the older brother will point out in due course). When do you find it hard to believe that God shows you the same sort of love?
5. Read 1 John 4:9-10, or Romans 5:8. How do these verses assure us that God has run towards us in love, just as the father in this story does to the lost son?
6. This parable was originally 'aimed at' the Pharisees (see Luke 15:1-2). The wider context is religiously observant Jews struggling with the idea that God could love and welcome sinful gentiles. Today, many of the wrong attitudes held by those Pharisees can be latent or even active within Christian believers. As you read the older brother's reaction (Luke 15:25-30), where do you see some of the same attitudes in your own heart, or perhaps in the hearts of other Christians?
7. Luke 15 contains 3 parables about things or people that were lost and are now found. What happens when they are found? (see Luke 15:6-7; 9-10; 23-24)
8. God's heart is overjoyed when a person repents and returns to Him. How much does this same excitement motivate you in your relationships with non-Christians?

Pray. Here are some ideas for prayer:

- Give thanks for being found!
- Pray for those known to you who are currently 'prodigals'.
- Ask God to give you his heart for the lost.