

The good, bad, and ugly (story of prodigal son)

Luke 15:11-32

Luke 15 background

Now the tax collectors and sinners
were all drawing near to hear
him(Jesus).

And the Pharisees and the scribes
grumbled, saying

"This man receives sinners and eats
with them"

Luke 15:1-2

Who are the sinners, tax collectors?

Sinners

- Wrongdoers
- Irreligious
- People with occupations not in line with the law (e.g., prostitutes)

Tax collectors

- Worked for Rome
- They charged more than what Rome required for their own profit.
- Classified with robbers & murderers

You hypocrites!

“Everything they do is done for
people to see:

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and
Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut
the door of the kingdom of heaven in
people’s faces. You yourselves do not
enter, nor will you let those enter
who are trying to.

Matthew 15:7; 23:5, 13

Luke 15 background (continued...)

- (vs. 3-7) parable of the lost sheep
 - Sheep are foolish animals naturally prone to wonder
- (vs. 8-10) Parable of the lost coin
 - Woman lost her coin due to her carelessness
- (vs. 11-31) Prodigal son
 - Son lost it through his willfulness

Church in the image of a family

- Father
- older son
- younger son

Younger Son (identity)

1. **Sinners** - during Christ's time
2. **Gentiles** - NT period
3. **Non-believers** - present day

Elder son's rights

He must acknowledge firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has (inheritance).

Deut. 21:17

Inheritance: property passing at the owner's death to the heir or those entitled to succeed; legacy.

“Prodigal”

n., wastefully or recklessly
extravagant

A person who spends money or
uses resources with wasteful
extravagance.

Key verses for younger son

1. ...got together all he had, (v.13)
2. ...he began to be in need (v.14)
3. When he came to his senses (v.17)
4. "I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me one of your hired men.' (v.19)

Key verses for the Father

1. While he was still a long way off, his father saw him...
2. He ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him
3. Bring the best robe...put a ring... sandals on his feet
4. He was lost but is found

Older Son (identity)

1. **Pharisees** - During Christ's time
2. **Self-righteous believers** - who wanted to enforce Judaism
3. **Religious people** - who stands outside the kingdom of God

Key verses for older son

1. Older son was in the field (v.25)
2. Father "Pleaded" (v. 28)
3. "Slaving" (v.29)
4. "Never gave" (v.29)
5. "Son of Yours" (v. 30)
6. "You are always with me" (v.31)
7. "had to celebrate" (v.32)

Older Son (Pharisees)

1. he showed a total lack of concern for his brother.
- His attitude stands in stark contrast to the spirit of celebration he had walked into (my agenda not Gods).
- He had obviously not missed his brother or worried about him. He also didn't care about his father's happiness. His only thought was for his own recognition

Older Son (Pharisees)

2. "I've never disobeyed you," he said. It was obviously an exaggeration. But it reveals a tendency.

**Pharisees were masters at recognizing the sins of others, but are blind to their own.*

Older Son (Pharisees)

3. The older brother had served his father, but obviously not from the heart.
4. Finally, he had an unforgiving heart. He wouldn't forgive his brother for his immorality, nor his father for his graciousness.

Repent!

1. Jesus said "Abide in me"
2. Do what Father does through his Son Jesus
 - Love
 - Forgive