

MAKING THE WRONGS RIGHT

Luke 15:11-32

INTRO: Turn your Bibles to Luke chapter 15. Luke is the third book of the New Testament. MATTHEW, MARK, and then LUKE. Chapter 15 contains a very familiar story that I want us to look at today.

Anyone here ever made a bad decision? I'm not talking about going back for seconds at your favorite buffet when you really had enough the first round, bad choice. I'm talking about a life changing, career ending, mind blowing colossal mistake that left a scar for life bad decision? ANYONE ADMIT TO THAT? Guys, do not look at your wife right now!

Some make fewer bad decisions than others. But it seems we all make some. And living with the consequences of our mistakes can be hard.

One of the biggest bone head decisions recorded in scripture was a young son who wanted desperately to leave home and do his own thing. It only took a few verses for Jesus to tell the heartbreaking story of one we know only as...THE PRODIGAL SON.

In our passage today, I want us to look at how this young man, who made a really, really bad decision, turned it around and did what he had to do to make the wrongs right. And that's the title of my sermon, MAKING THE WRONGS RIGHT. Notice...

I) RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM: vv 11-19 vv 11-13 *"Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger son said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 After a few days, the younger son got everything together and journeyed to a distant country, where he squandered his wealth in wild living."*

Now let's note what's happening here. The younger son came to his dad and said give me my stuff, (that portion which belongs to me) because I'm leaving this place. I'm going to blow this hick town and make it on my own. And he disconnects from his father and everyone else he knew and he sets out on his own.

APPLICATION: Now, this has happened to me and it's happened to you... we get the stuff that Father God freely gives (we like getting stuff) and then we disconnect from the Father because He cramps our style. We like the stuff, but not the other stuff. We enjoy the blessings, (give me that God) but not the duties, not the work, the responsibilities. THAT'S A PROBLEM.

So the prodigal leaves dad, he turns his back on dad and he goes out on his own to figure out sexuality, to learn about pleasures, to figure out his own wants and desires, thinking that all desires must have merit. HE DOES THIS ALL, NOT BELIEVING THE WORDS OF DAD, THAT THIS KIND OF LIVING LEADS ONLY TO DESTRUCTION.

v 14 *"And after he had spent all..."* Every time you make your decisions disconnected from God, ALL WILL BE SPENT BEFORE LONG! TRY IT AND FIND OUT... make a business decision without God's leadership and see what it cost you. Get into a relationship without God's guidance and see where you wind up.

v 14 *"...he spent all, a severe famine swept through that country, and he began to be in need"* Sometimes the best thing that can happen to you in life, is for you to get to a place of famine so you remember what you walked away from.

I) RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM: vv 11-19 CONTINUED Some of you would never pray if you didn't go through hard times. Some of you wouldn't even be in church today if your life wasn't turned upside down. You left God with a few re-sources in hand. You left the-source with a few re-sources thinking you could manage on your own, but now the re-source is dried up and the-source seems so far away that you don't know if you can ever get back there. Look at what it says, vv 15-19 "So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He longed to fill his belly with the pods the pigs were eating, but no one would give him a thing. 17 Finally he came to his senses and said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have plenty of food? But here I am, starving to death! 18 I will get up and go back to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"

He recognized the problem and now he's about to do something about it.

II) REALIZE THE POTENTIAL: vv 20-21 v 20 "So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still in the distance, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him." WOW, what a word...this is for someone today. You haven't been able to see God in your situation, but He sees you before you ever take the first step into the yard.

v 20 "his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him." Oh how this must have been awkward for this son. When he left he had snazzy clothes and smelled like a spring meadow, but now he's back threadbare and smelling like a pig pen, but dad grabs him and kisses his dirty neck anyway.

"Uhhh", clearing his throat, "Dad I wrote something here I need to read to you..."

v 21 "The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'"

This son realized the potential he had left behind and he went back to the place of the source!

III) RECEIVE THE PROVISION: vv 22-24 vv 21-22 "The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.'"

"The son said..." "But the father said..." / "The son said..." "But the father said..." I LOVE THAT! That phrase "But the father said..." implies an interruption! "The son said..." NOTHING BUT BAD, "But the father said..." IT'S ALL GOOD NOW!

vv 22b-24 "Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again! He was lost and is found!" So they began to celebrate." PROVISIONS, PROVISIONS, God's got plenty!

It's time you realize that God is your source for all things good. He provides when your re-sources have run dry.

Acts 17:28 "For in him we live, and move, and have our being..." That's pretty clear!

Re-sources deplete, but the-source never runs out! He is able to provide and provide again.

I) RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM: vv 11-19

II) REALIZE THE POTENTIAL: vv 20-21

III) RECEIVE THE PROVISION: vv 22-24 CONTINUED Let me show you something great. In Genesis 1 we have God busy creating.

Genesis 1:11 *“And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.”* (The earth brought forth...)

Genesis 1:20-21 *“And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. 21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.”* (The waters brought forth...)

Genesis 1:26 *“And God said, **Let us** make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”*

When it came to me and you, God said, **“LET US...”** GOD IS OUR SOURCE! Just like soil is to vegetation, and water is to a fish, God is your source of life and happiness. He wants to help you. The question is, **WILL YOU LET HIM?**

CONCLUSION: It has always amazed me that people will continually come asking help from the church, over and over again, but most of them never ask God for help. NOW, the church can be a great re-source. BUT the church is not the-source, GOD IS.

God is wanting to help, able to help, and waiting to help. AND THE FIRST AND GREATEST HELP HE OFFERS, IS HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST!