

Oh Brother Luke 15:11-32

I. Two Dysfunctional Relationships

A. The Prodigal Son Rejected Outwardly

1. The Prodigal Son abandoned his father (v. 11-12)
 - a) The younger son was technically entitled to 1/3rd of the estate
 - b) The younger son's decision to take his inheritance early was a rejection not just of his father but of good practice
 - c) This represents the rejection, knowing or unknowing, of God's truth
2. The Prodigal Son wasted his inheritance (v. 13-14)
 - a) The younger son took his inheritance and wasted it quickly
 - b) Again, there is obvious, blatant sin, but also disrespectfulness on display
3. The Prodigal Son rejected his father
 - a) Everything that the younger son did shows rejection of the father
 - b) This is the picture of sinners, rejecting God's way, living their own way
 - c) Every person does what is right in their own eyes – Judges 21:25
 - d) Everyone does evil continually – Isaiah 64:5-7

B. The Pious Son Rejected Inwardly

1. The Pious Son stayed with his father (v. 25)
 - a) The older son does what good sons are supposed to do
 - b) The Pharisees
 - (1) What they thought they were doing - I Timothy 5:4
 - (2) What they actually did - Matthew 15:3-5
2. The Pious Son 'obeyed' his father (v. 29)
 - a) The older son did what his father said
 - b) The older son was apparently unhappy with the outcome
 - c) This reveals the Pharisees, doing the actions they thought God wanted, but not understanding why they were doing them
3. The Pious Son valued the inheritance more than his relationship with his father (v. 28-30)
 - a) While the older son was still at home, he did not have a healthy relationship with his father either
 - b) NO ONE other than Jesus has a healthy relationship with the father

II. Two Results of Dysfunctional Relationships

A. Disaster

1. The Prodigal Son failed on his own (v. 15)
 - a) The Prodigal Son made bad decisions
 - (1) The terms Jesus use indicate frivolous wastage
 - (2) The terms Jesus use indicate sinful living
 - (3) Proverbs 28:26
 - b) The Prodigal Son couldn't handle bad times
2. The Prodigal Son lost everything (v. 16)
 - a) The younger son had no resources (pigs can eat anything)
 - b) The younger son had to abandon his Jewish identity to live
3. The Prodigal Son realized that submission was better than pride (v. 18-19)
 - a) The younger son resolves to return to his father, admitting his total wrongness, and submitting to the father
 - b) Humility
 - (1) This indicates an attitude of humility – I Peter 5:6; James 4:6; II Chronicles 7:14
 - (2) Not only is the son going back, he's admitting he is to blame. He had violated God's law and hurt his dad

B. Delusion

1. The Pious Son seemed to succeed (v. 31)
 - a) While things fell apart for the younger son, the older son must have been doing pretty well
 - b) They had servants, fatted calves, goats, things were going well
 - c) This is a picture for what the Pharisees were doing
 - (1) They were doing religious things
 - (2) They felt like God was happy
 - (3) But they weren't doing things for the right reasons
2. The Pious Son thought he would inherit everything (v. 31)
 - a) The older son was looking forward to the inheritance
 - b) The Pharisees were looking forward to a time when they were rewarded for their piety
 - c) Soon the Messiah would come and give them exactly what they deserved!
3. The Pious Son believed he had earned his success (v. 29)
 - a) There is a sense of entitlement here, shown by the words used by the older son

b) He worked like a dog for this!

c) Pride

III. Two Responses to a Dysfunctional Relationship

A. Humility (Joyful Repentance)

1. The Prodigal Son repented (v. 20-21)
2. The Prodigal Son was welcomed back into the household (v. 22-24)
 - a) The father forgave his son and welcomed him back
 - b) The prodigal son has a speech planned, but his father only lets him get about half of it out!
 - c) His father was just waiting for a chance to welcome him home
 - (1) Luke 15:7
 - (2) Isaiah 61:10
3. The Prodigal Son fixed his relationship with the father
 - a) The younger son was ready to be a servant, and instead the father treated him like a son
 - b) I Peter 1:8-9

B. Pride (Entitled Anger)

1. The Dutiful Son sees things as unfair (v. 28-30)
 - a) The Pious son is angry! How could this guy show his face again. He abandoned the family, he hadn't worked at all
 - b) Malachi 3:13-15
 - c) James 4:1-3
 - d) I John 2:9-10
 - e) Matthew 23:1-3
2. The Pious Son views his service as a burden
3. The Pious Son has to make a decision: pride or submission

Conclusions

1. If you are the Prodigal Son, come back to the Father, he waits with open arms
2. If you are the Dutiful Son, are you trusting in your works to save you, or are you trusting in the father?
3. If you are the Dutiful Son, are you celebrating and helping the Prodigal Son?