

A Tale of Two Brothers...and Their Father

Luke 15:11-31

I. Characters

A. The Father Wants Both His Sons to Be Happy

1. Gives the younger son money and lets him go
2. Wants the older son to be a part of the feast (eventually)

B. The Younger Son

1. Isn't satisfied to be with his family and wants to find his own way
2. Sees his relationship with his family as transactional instead of relational

C. The Older Son

1. Faithful to obey and support his father
2. Possibly asked for a goat for his friends and was rejected

II. Contrasts

A. Provision

1. The sons both received an inheritance, but one left and the other stayed
2. One son spent it all and the other continued working
3. The father and the older son invested in the work, the younger son, just took the byproduct of the work.

B. Compassion

1. The younger son was only thinking of himself
2. The older son wants justice, but doesn't see that his brother has been broken
3. Father is just thankful to have his son back.

III. Lessons

A. Perspective

1. The younger brother learned that he actually have a pretty good life
2. The older brother learned about compassion and mercy

3. The father learned that his sons didn't always view things the way he did

B. Thankfulness

1. Younger brother was unthankful so he decided to wander

2. Older brother was content, but lost it when comparing himself to his brother

3. The father embraced an attitude of thankfulness

a. when the son came back the natural response was celebration

b. when the brother complained he didn't even consider being upset