

Wednesday Bible Study 6/09/2018

Reflection: The popularly known Parable "The Prodigal Son" was the passage preached on last Sunday. As we explored the Parable, some highlights stood out for us. Tonight, we aim to explore this as a group and not just hear one voice speaking on it, as it was on Sunday, but everyone's reflections. In some of our Bibles, there may be a heading which states something like "The Parable of the prodigal son or the Parable of the lost son." When we read headings in the Bible, it can have the tendency to shape the way we read the text. Most of the time this is fine. But as we will see tonight, it is just the one son who is lost?

Let's read Luke 15:11-31

1. Let's put ourselves in the father's shoes, if you are a parent, could you describe how you would feel if one of your children was asking for their share of your estate tomorrow?
2. What do you think are the young son's motives in asking for his portion?
3. How does this relate in the previous parables of Luke 15?
4. Out of the passage, what do you think the word prodigal means?
5. Are there aspects of the prodigal son which relate to us? Are there things we waste? If so, what would some of those things be?
6. What is the crisis in the young son's life? Describe what you think this meant for a first century Jew
7. The young son has nothing to rely on but the father's mercy (17-19). How did he express that in the passage?
8. What was the Father's reaction in verse 20? How would you describe it?

9. What was significant for the son in the father's reaction?

10. Describe grace and restoration for the young son in this passage. How was this done?

11. What is the elder brother's reaction?

12. If you were the father of this son, what would your reaction be?

13. Is it possible that the elder son is relationally just as distant as the younger son was? Is he wasting something, a prodigal as well?

14. It's interesting how Jesus left the parable as an open ending. Why do you think he did that?

15. After Sunday's message and tonight, what new insights about this passage have you received?

Let's spend some time in prayer for each other.