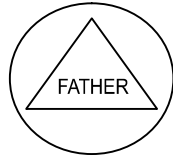


Parables of Grace

"The Lost Boys: Describing Spiritual Dysfunction"

(Luke 15:11-32)

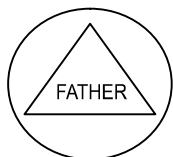


YOUNGER BROTHER



Broken relationship through "ACTIVE REBELLION"

- Requested his share of the inheritance (11,12)
- In effect says "I wish you were dead"
- Unthinkable in Middle East culture
- Left home (13-17)
 - Wasted money
 - Hired out to Gentile pig farmer
 - Famine → hunger
 - Realization → repentance (?)



ELDER BROTHER



Broken relationship through "PASSIVE REBELLION"

- Received share of inheritance (12)
- Should loudly refuse it in protest
- Should seek to reconcile brother to father
- Complains about favoritism (29)
- Resents his brother's return (30)

What is Spiritual Dysfunction?... Broken Relationship with God

"ACTIVE" REBELLION (YOUNGER SON = SINNERS)

PARABLE

- Independence
- Selfish / self centered
- Angry

TODAY

- "I don't need God" – independence
- "It's all about me!" – self-centeredness
- "What have you done for me lately?" – manipulation
- "I'll do it my way" – pride

"PASSIVE" REBELLION (ELDER SON = RELIGIOUS LEADERS)

THEN

- Apparent conformity
- Surface obedience
- Sought "favourite" status
- Self-righteous anger

NOW

- We ignore the Father's love
- We play the religious game
- "God owes it to me"
- "I can save myself" → self-righteous

What can the father do to restore a relationship with each son?

PARABLE

- He gives the sons freedom to make choices
- He offers consistent love
- He expects a turnaround
- He trusts in natural consequences to guide his sons home
- He realizes relationship is more a "heart" thing than a "proximity" thing

TODAY

- He extends an invitation to enjoy a relationship
- He respects the choices we make
- He never gives up on his own
- The final word – GRACE WINS!

NEXT WEEK – Watch GRACE in action as the father faces his sons' rebellion.