

Parables of Grace
“The GRACE-FULL FATHER”
(Luke 15:11-32)

In the face of the “active rebellion” of his younger son and the “passive rebellion” of his older son, the father in the parable responds with UNEXPECTED and UNBELIEVABLE grace.

TO YOUNGER SON (addresses “active” rebellion)

1. The father should have refused the request and punished him for his insolence
2. Instead...
 - a. he granted the request
 - b. he waited patiently for his son to return home
 - c. showed pre-emptive grace
 - i. saw him a “long way off” (20)
 - ii. filled with compassion (20)
 - iii. ran to him (20)
 - iv. embraced and kissed him (20)
 - v. interrupted his son’s plans for return (21)
 - not as a bondsman (doulos) – trusted part of family
 - not as a slave (paidos) – servant status
 - but hired servant (mishios) – outside help
 - vi. restored into the family (22)
 - best robe
 - ring of authority
 - sandals
 - vii. restored into the community (23-24)
 - prevents “broken jar” ceremony

TO OLDER SON (addresses “passive” rebellion)

1. The father pleaded with him to join the party (28)
2. The father affirmed his consistent love (31)
3. It’s not about you – it’s about the return of your brother!

SUMMARIZING THE MEANING BEHIND THE PARABLE

GRACE alone restores the relationships that were broken.

THEN

- With the father... “Come God’s way” not your way
He came from the Father full of grace and truth (John 1:14)
I came to seek and save what was lost (Luke 19:10)
- With the brother... did the older brother finally get it?
 We don’t know.
- With the community... celebration not condemnation

NOW

- The grace of God pursues us and addresses our rebelliousness
 Paul’s testimony – 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- We must come His way not our way
 Only one way to the Father – John 14:6
- There is joy in the Father’s home when the lost is found
 Check the “Lost & Found” parables – Luke 15
- There must be joy in the Father’s spiritual community as well
 Forgiveness, restoration and joy characterize the kingdom of God.

You can’t out-sin the grace of God!