



Happy Thanksgiving!

“HOW TO LOVE THE ___ ___ ___ OUT OF SOMEBODY!”

Luke 15:11-24

I. INTRODUCTION

Happy Thanksgiving! This evening, we will present a reasonably unfamiliar perspective on a very familiar text. Life is mercurial, sometimes pregnant with intriguing twists and turns. In this evening's text, a parable told by Jesus, the younger son of a well-to-do father unexpectedly, unethically and unlawfully bolts his father's home.

Tonight's message focuses on the relational dynamics in this familiar story. Specifically, we will zero in on two things: 1) how to love the loveable when they are acting unlovely; and 2) how God loves us in spite of ourselves. Obviously, we can learn a lot about how to love ourselves and how to love others by how The Lord loves us. **Luke 15:11-24**

Tonight's Rhema word will provide enlightenment and inspiration regarding family dynamics, personal wholeness and prophetic justice.

II. HOW TO LOVE THE UNLOVELY

- A. The younger son tells his dad: "I wish you were dead." **v. 12**
- B. In the spirit of resolute rebellion, the son requests his share of his inheritance (BEFORE his father dies). **v. 12**
- C. In response to his son's request, the father could have beaten the son, or worse. (**Exodus 21:17; Deuteronomy 21:18-21**) Also, the father could have disinherited the son.
- D. Squandering a father's assets was viewed as a terrible crime. **vv. 13-14**
- E. The son's lifestyle sank to the level of "pigville." Pigville associations were viewed very disgustingly by Jesus' hearers. **v. 15-16**
- F. The son came to his senses while hanging with the pigs. Desperation, not remorse, drove the son's decision to return home. **vv. 17-19**
- G. Miraculously, the father accepts his formerly rebellious son with unparalleled compassion, forgiveness and joy! The father showered his son with attention, affection and acceptance shamelessly! **vv. 20-24**

III. WHAT YOU CAN LEARN WHILE YOU ARE “STUCK OUT”

- A. How low is the bottom?
- B. Who are your friends?
- C. What will you do?

IV. HOW DID WE GET *HERE*?

- A. The power exceeds the authority.
- B. What did you do (at that age)?
- C. Who were you (at that age)?
- D. Why did you do what you did when you did it (at that age)?
- E. Why were you who you were (at that age)?
- F. What is your **real** fear?

V. HOW DO YOU GET BACK HOME?

- A. Humility: The father ran to greet his son.
- B. Protection: The father hugged his son.
- C. Blessing: The father kissed his son.
- D. Acceptance: The father gave his son one of the best robes.
- E. Sonship: The father gave his son a ring.
- F. Victory: The father gave his son sandals.
- G. Celebration: The father threw his son a party.

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