

## The Lost Son: The Need, The Ring, & The Feast

### I. What we think about God matters

- A. Two sons, two different ways of relating to the Father.
- B. Our stories are different, but the truth and character of God is the same.
- C. "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." - A.W. Tozer
- D. Why? It shapes everything else.
- E. Jesus tells this story to intentionally reveal the heart of the Father.

### II. The Story

- A. The Younger Son → Runs away, squanderer, lost, needy, ashamed
- B. The Older Son → Angry, self-righteous, prideful, lost, blinded
- C. The Father → Runs toward, gives abundantly, finds, compassionate, restorer, still loves
- D. The Crowd
  1. Jesus wanted each group to hear for themselves, but also hear for the other side.
  2. Both sons just wanted the Father for His things, not for the Father Himself.
  3. One group eventually saw their need and the other didn't. The parable ends and the older brother still isn't at the party, and not because the Father didn't invite Him.

### III. Our Story

- A. This isn't just a story for them. It's a story for us. All scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching. Written for them, but preserved for us.
- B. 3 ways to move forward
  1. FEEL - your need for Him
  2. KNOW - you belong to and with Him
  3. DO - invite others to the feast of Him
    - a. If we feel our need, we know we belong and are invited, we will invite others into the same

### IV. What we think about God matters

- A. He runs toward and he gives everything abundantly. Because of His great love for us He is the compassionate one of action who restores.
- B. What we believe shapes how we live
- C. We must know the heart of the Father to have a heart for others.
- D. Feel your need, know you belong, and out of that, invite others to the feast.

**LIFEgroup Questions:**

1. Where in my life am I trying to function without needing God?
2. Do I live like I know I belong to God, or like I still have something to earn?
3. Who in my life needs an invitation to experience God's grace?