

- The question Jesus raised then is just as valid today. How is our relationship with God? Have we fallen out with God as a result of a 'big row' or has our relationship with God gone cold over the years as a result of a 'slow freeze'?

2.2. Rebellion

- Both sons rebel against the Father. The younger one's rebellion is obvious the older one's rebellion is more subtle.
- The younger son demands his inheritance vv12 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' – and by doing so wishes that he father was dead. Relationship breaks with a 'big row.'
- When we say that we wish to live our way with no reference to God we effectively are wishing that God is dead.
- The sinners and tax collectors realised this and were hungry for Jesus' message.
- The older son's relationship with his father has died from a 'slow freeze' – vv 29 "Look! All these years I've been **slaving** for you." – The older son thinks he is a slave rather than a son.
- Many of us think we are in relationship with God but our love has grown cold. We serve God out of a sense of duty like a **slave** rather than remembering that we are his sons and daughters. – The Pharisees were more concerned about their rules than their relationship with God!

2.3. Restoration

- The younger son receives restoration because he is willing to repent vv 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. '
- The older son does not because he is 'stiff necked' and proud vv 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in.

2.4. Conclusion

- Which son are we more like? Is God calling us to change? Are we willing to repent?

3. Questions to consider at home

1. A new family has joined your friend's church. The only problem is that their children do not know how to behave in church. Your friend is also annoyed with her minister because he is refusing to say anything to the new family. How would you resolve the issue?
2. What are the key truths Jesus wants us to learn about the Kingdom of Heaven from this parable?
3. The choir in a neighbouring church are refusing to use a new hymn book that the PCC have agreed to use. How would you resolve this issue?
4. Your friend tells you that after being on the coffee rota for 5 years she did not receive any thanks from her minister. How would you respond?
5. As a corporate body of believers which son are we more like?

Matthew Street 13th December 2020



The Parish of Wellow

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 - Joy in heaven

Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

1. Talk Passage – Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." 11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. 25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

2. Talk Notes

2.1. Relationship

- Relationships break down in two ways:
 - i) As a result of a big row
 - ii) From a slow freeze
- The same is true about our relationship with God
- Jesus preaches the parable of the prodigal son in response to the Pharisees who are upset that he is associating himself with sinners vv 2 "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."
- There are TWO sons in the parable of the prodigal son – an older and a younger. Jesus is in effect asking the audience around him, the tax collectors, the sinners and the Pharisees which son they are like.

- The question Jesus raised then is just as valid today. How is our relationship with God? Have we fallen out with God as a result of a 'big row' or has our relationship with God gone cold over the years as a result of a 'slow freeze'?

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