

“Return Home”

Luke 15:11-31

February 27 & 28, 2010

1. Read verse 1-2 of Luke 15. Who is the audience of this original story?
2. Look at verse 11, describe the family. What can you share about them?
3. Describe the boys. There are two of them. What are they like? Share character traits—things like that.
4. If you were going to recommend one of those young men for a responsible position, which would you choose? Why?
5. Based on the culture at that time, what are the implications of the younger boy's request to have the property divided between himself and his brother?
6. The Father had every right under the Mosaic law to discipline him to the point of stoning, but that never enters the father's mind. Instead of stoning, there are kisses. What response did the older brother want his father to give to his brother?
7. After reading the story, how do you explain the reaction of the two sons to the father's humiliating display of love?
8. The older brother refuses to go in and act as the host at the party and actually creates a scene in public. How would you have expected the father to respond to the insult of his son? How would you have handled it? What were his options?
9. The father has gone out to this elder son and begged him to come in, but the boy refused. The father then explained to the elder son the basis of his mercy given to the younger son. How did the older son respond to the Father's mercy?
10. There are two opposite ways to relate to God in this passage. Which son requires the greater remedy?
11. Is it possible that we can reflect in our own lives the response of the older brother? Who do you think this story is primarily for?
12. The story of the two sons in Luke 15 does not give us a final ending. How would you write the ending? How would Jesus have wanted it to end?
13. Ultimately, what was the Father's love for his sons based on?
14. Have you been relating to God as a son or as a slave?