

ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

“...we his servants will arise and build...”

GROWING IN APPRECIATION FOR FAMILY

“Taking For Granted The Greatness Of The Father”

Luke 15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And **he divided unto them *his* living.**

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17 And **when he came to himself**, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 **I will arise and go to my father**, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. **But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.**

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.

26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.

27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

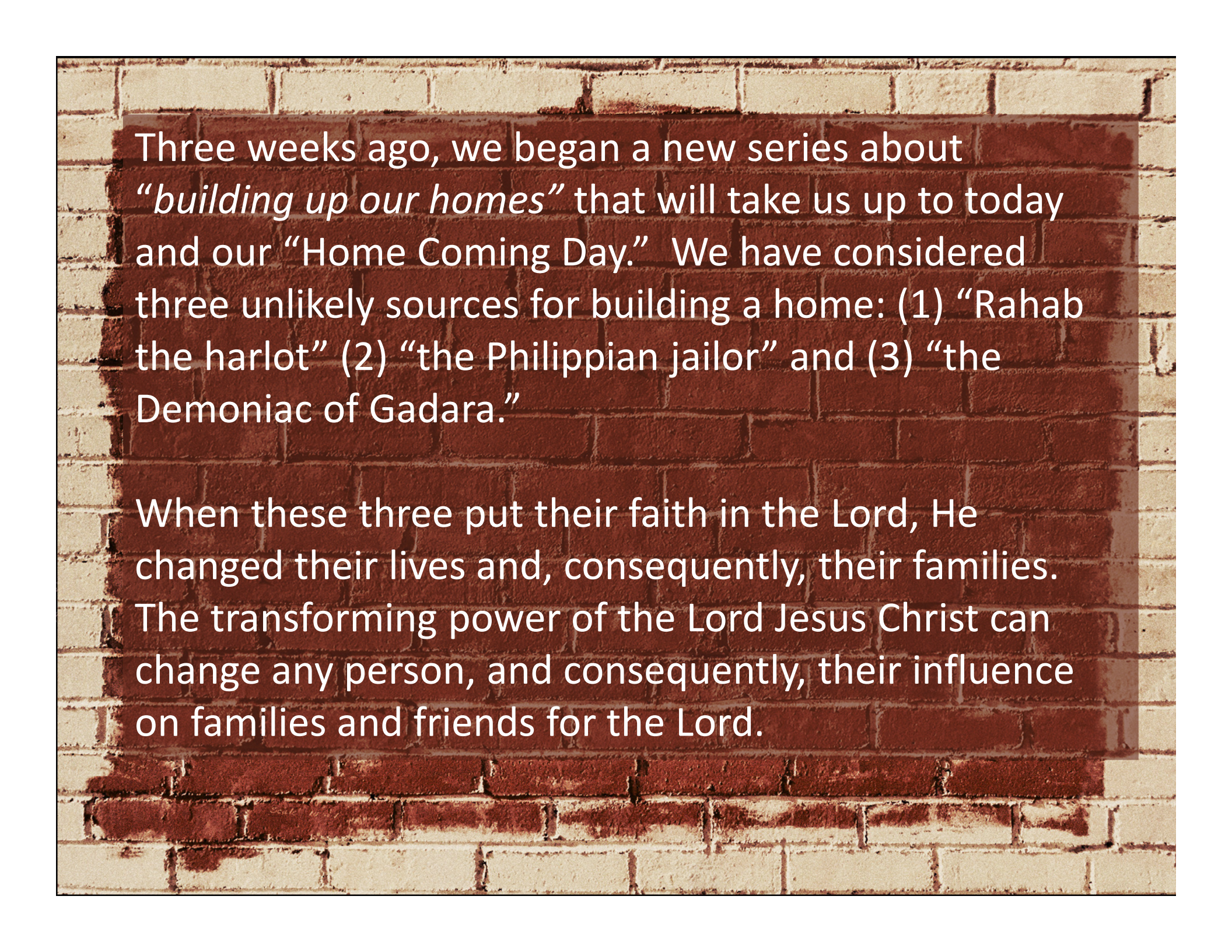
28 And **he was angry, and would not go in**: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

29 And he answering said to *his* father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:

30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

31 And he said unto him, **Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.**

32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.



Three weeks ago, we began a new series about “*building up our homes*” that will take us up to today and our “Home Coming Day.” We have considered three unlikely sources for building a home: (1) “Rahab the harlot” (2) “the Philippian jailor” and (3) “the Demoniac of Gadara.”

When these three put their faith in the Lord, He changed their lives and, consequently, their families. The transforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ can change any person, and consequently, their influence on families and friends for the Lord.

Introduction

This morning, we will look at a family situation that has greed, bad decisions, heartache, disappointment, and eventually, restoration within the family of “the prodigal son.” The word “prodigal” is not found in the Bible, but its definition is as follows:

prodigal

(adjective)

wastefully or recklessly extravagant: giving or yielding profusely; lavishly abundant; profuse:

(noun)

a person who spends, or has spent, his or her money or substance with wasteful extravagance;

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/prodigal?s=t>

We begin by looking at two sons who had distorted views of their father.

I. THE SONS' DISTORTED VIEWS OF THE FATHER'S GOODS

A. The younger son was focused upon materialism and self-satisfaction.

Luke 15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, **give me the portion of goods** that falleth *to me*. And **he divided unto them *his* living.**

❖ Children, as individuals, are similar but each has personal perspectives and choices.

Heb. 11:25 **Choosing** rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, **than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;**

❖ The younger son was impatient, greedy, and “sacrificed the permanent upon the altar of the immediate.”

Heb. 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and **holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; **lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;**

16 Lest there *be* any fornicator, or profane person, as **Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.**

17 For ye know how that afterward, **when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected:** for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

- ❖ The younger son's attitude was self-centered –
“...Father, **give me** the portion of **goods** that falleth **to me.**”

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for **a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**

- ❖ The younger son had a distorted view of his father's goods --- he thought that much goods = much pleasure through possessing of things.
- ❖ The younger son got away from his home and his Father's influence, and “did his own thing” which got him into deeper problems.

Luke 15:13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and **there wasted his substance with riotous living.**

Luke 15:30 “But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath **devoured thy living** with harlots...”

Prov. 29:3 Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but **he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance.**

Prov. 13:15 “...but **the way of transgressors is hard.**”

B. The older son was focused upon merriment and self-satisfaction.

Luke 15:25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.

26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.

27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

28 And **he was angry, and would not go in**: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

29 And he answering said to *his* father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and **yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends**:

30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath **devoured thy living** with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

❖ The older son stayed home, but, also had a distorted view of his father's goods --- he thought that much goods = much pleasure through companionship with friends.

II. THE SONS' DISTORTED VIEWS OF THE FATHER'S GRACE

A. The younger son misunderstood his father's grace regarding forgiveness.

❖ The Horrible Circumstances – 15:14-16

Luke 15:14 And when **he had spent all**, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and **he sent him into his fields to feed swine**.

16 And **he would fain have filled his belly with the husks** that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

❖ The Honest Conviction – “17 And **when he came to himself...**”

❖ The Humbling Confession – “18 **I will arise and go to my father**, and will say unto him, Father, **I have sinned against heaven, and before thee**, 19 And am **no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.:**

repentance

Real penitence; **sorrow or deep contrition for sin, as an offense and dishonor to God**, a violation of his holy law, and the basest ingratitude towards a Being of infinite benevolence. This is called evangelical *repentance* **and is accompanied and followed by amendment of life.**

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/Repentance>

❖ The Home Coming – 15:20-24

Luke 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. **But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.**

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

❖ The younger son thought of rejection, but his father rejoiced in receiving him – “...19 And am **no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.**”

24 “For this **my son** was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.”

- ❖ The younger son thought of being forsaken, but his father thought of fellowship.

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

B. The older brother misunderstood his father's grace regarding fellowship.

- ❖ The older son was faithful in service – “...was in the field...”

❖ The older son's sanctimonious attitude is revealed in 15:28-30:

Luke 15:28 And **he was angry, and would not go in**: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

29 And he answering said to *his* father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and **yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends**:

30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath **devoured thy living** with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

❖ The older son was angry and pouted – “28 And **he was angry, and would not go in...**”

- ❖ The older son expressed his own fidelity while throwing his brother under the bus.

Luke 15:29 And he answering said to *his* father, **Lo, these many years do I serve thee**, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and **yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:**

30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath **devoured thy living** with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

- ❖ The older son did not realize that his father knew about the “many years” of service.

Prov. 27:2 **Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth**; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

❖ The older son focused on comparing himself with his younger brother.

2 Cor. 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and **comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.**

Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;** but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

❖ The older son was overlooking the best reason and opportunity for merriment:

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and **let us eat, and be merry:**

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. **And they began to be merry.**

III. THE SONS' DISTORTED VIEWS OF THE FATHER'S GREATNESS

A. The Greatness of His Compassion = Past and present

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his servants, **Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:**

23 And **bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it***; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Luke 15:28 And he was angry, and would not go in: **therefore came his father out, and intreated him.**

B. The Greatness of His Character = Person

- ❖ Both sons neglected to consider the greatness of their father – they were too preoccupied with themselves.

C. The Greatness of His Companionship = Provisions

Luke 15:31 And he said unto him, **Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.**

D. The Greatness of His Comprehension = Perception

Luke 15:32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

❖ The father emphasized fellowship – “...Son, thou art ever with me...”

Jn. 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; **that where I am, there ye may be also.**

Mt. 11:28 **Come unto me**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

❖ The father minimized materialism – “...all that I have is thine.”

Conclusion

Jas. 4:8 **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.**

Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

Rom. 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For **as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.



16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that **we are the children of God:**

17 And if children, then heirs; **heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;** if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.