



LOVE SO AMAZING

Luke 15:11-32

2022 THEME

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.

Our theme for 2022 is...

LOVE SO AMAZING

Last week, we considered “LOVE SO AMAZING” that in spite of our wretched sinfulness, the Lord loved us and gave Himself for us. LOVE SO AMAZING is appreciated when we grasp the magnitude of salvation and sonship as it is applied to our hearts, and we become new creatures in Christ.

This morning, we will see an illustration given by the Lord Jesus to show us LOVE SO AMAZING in forgiving the “prodigal son” and his older brother of their sinfulness and selfishness.

I. LOVE SO AMAZING IN SPITE OF SINFULNESS

A. The Fleshly Pleasures

Luke 15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:
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- ❖ How many professing “Christians” live just like the prodigal: “I want to enjoy my life and then when I am old, I will serve God.”
- ❖ The prodigal appears to be totally oblivious as to who provided “the portion of goods.”
- ❖ The responsibility of stewardship does not appear to be a consideration.

1 Cor. 4:2 Moreover **it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**

❖ The prodigal focused upon the pleasures of sin, not pleasing his father.

Heb. 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

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

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

B. The Filthy Perversion

Luke 15: 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.

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 connection between Jewish individuals and swine is an atrocity to the Jewish mindset, the epitome of filthy perversion.

2 Pet. 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and **the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.**

❖ In spite of mankind's filthiness, God's love can cover it all.

Prov. 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but **love covereth all sins.**

❖ The filthiness of mankind originates in the heart and is manifest by the mouth.

Mt. 15:18 But **those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.**

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

20 **These are the things which defile a man:** but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

❖ A filthy mind produces a filthy lifestyle.

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: **but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.**

❖ The problem of the prodigal is a worldwide, contemporary problem.

1 Jn. 5:19 *And we know that we are of God, and **the whole world lieth in wickedness.***

❖ The Lord warned us of the perversion of the present.

Isa. 5:20 **Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;** that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

21 **Woe unto *them that are wise in their own eyes,*** and prudent in their own sight!

❖ In spite of the sinfulness, the Lord still loved us and died for us!

Rom. 5:8 But **God commendeth his love toward us**, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

II. LOVE SO AMAZING IN SPITE OF SELFISHNESS

A. The Routine is Disturbed

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.**

- ❖ Life is often interrupted with events and incidents that disturb our routine.
- ❖ The prodigal's brother was not expecting him to return, but their father was.
- ❖ The elder brother was a “mechanical” brother going through the motions of routine.
- ❖ The “religious robot” missed the most important opportunity – the father's fellowship.

B. The Rudeness is Displayed

Luke 15:27 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:

- ❖ The prodigal's older brother had a bitter attitude problem.
- ❖ The pouting brother was angry, caring not about the prodigal brother.
- ❖ His focus was self-centered.

III. LOVE SO AMAZING IN SPITE OF SHALLOWNESS

Luke 15:31 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.

A. Priorities were Obliterated

- ❖ Both sons were focused upon selfish desires and neglected fellowship with their father.

B. Priorities were Observed

- ❖ The father exhibited love, patience, and longsuffering forgiveness to both boys.

Prov. 28:13 **He that covereth his sins shall not prosper:** but whoso **confesseth and forsaketh** *them* shall have mercy.

1 Pet. 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for **charity shall cover the multitude of sins.**

- ❖ The father focused upon fellowship, NOT condemnation.
- ❖ Believers need to fall in love with the Savior and cease being a prodigal or pouting brother.
- ❖ Love like Christ's love produces forgiveness and fellowship.

Conclusion

❖ The father was focused upon loving both sons.

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.

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.

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

❖ Both sons took their father for granted.

Mat 13:15 For this people's **heart** is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and **their eyes they have closed**; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should **understand with *their* heart**, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

We need to open our eyes and embrace LOVE SO AMAZING!