

04 – The Two Sons – The Younger **Luke 15: 11- 32**

Step 1: Link (back to the why)

We're reading Luke 15. At the beginning of Luke 15, the Pharisees complained about Jesus because he was friendly with tax collectors¹ and sinners. Each Pharisee believed, "They are sinners, but I am not a sinner." What are "sinners" - ? (. . . *the "bad" people*) What does the Bible teach about "sinners?" Who has sinned - ? (. . . *All have sinned*) Jesus told three stories to help the Pharisees understand sinners. The three stories are in Luke 15.

Step 2: Introduction

Last time we read the third story. In the third story a man has two sons. Which son was like the tax collectors and sinners - ? (. . . *the younger*) So the older son was like the Pharisees. Which son did the father have to go looking for - ? (. . . *the older*) To our surprise, the older son, the "good" son, was the one that was lost. The "bad" son came home by himself.²

Today we're going to read this same story. We're going to focus our attention on the younger son.

Step 3: Key Questions

- **What did the younger son ask for?** (*v.12 his share of the property*)
- **What speech did he prepare?** (*v.18,19 . . .*)

Step 4: Read Luke 15: 11-32

They read this last week: have them read silently (should take less time) and look up when they can answer the questions.

Step 5: Answer the questions

Step 6: Talk about it

The younger son asked for his share of the property. When does a child usually receive his share of the property - ? (. . . *after the father dies*) What was this younger son saying to his father? He was saying, "I can't wait for

¹ Tax collectors were hated because they cheated people. They collected the taxes for Rome, and they collected extra money for themselves. There was nothing the people could do about this – it was *shi-gata-ga-nai*

² Just like the tax collectors and sinners came to Jesus by themselves . . .

you to die.” He was saying, “I wish you were already dead.” He was saying, “I want the property, but I don’t want you.”

Can you imagine asking your father this? (. . .) The father in this story gave the son his share of the property. What do you think your father would do - ? (. . .) We’re going to focus on the father next week.

The father gave the son the property. What is the first thing the son did after he had his property - ? (. . . left home) Why do you think he left home? What was he looking for - ? (. . . opinion: fun, freedom)

So now he is a rich young man. What does the Bible say about his life when he was rich - ? (. . . v.13 “reckless” or “foolish”) Can you imagine his life? Do you think he had friends while he was rich - ? (. . . yes) What kinds of things do you think he bought with his money - ? (. . . alcohol, clothes, fun . . .)

What happened to the property - ? (. . . he squandered³ it) Did his friends help him - ? (. . . no) He lost his friends, and he decided to go back home.

Why did the son go back home - ? (. . . v.17; he realized he was poor, dirty and starving.⁴ He realized that his father still had plenty. He realized that he needed his father.) The son thought he needed money. He thought he needed freedom to have a happy life. But his true life was with his loving father.

Let’s look at his speech again. (. . . v.18,19) When he got home, did he say his whole speech - ? (. . . no: cf. v.21) Why not - ? (. . . the father interrupted him. The father was so happy)

Do you think the usual Japanese father would welcome his son home - ? (...)

Well, we’ll stop here for today.

Do you have any questions or comments?

³ “wasted” – use the word from your classroom Bible

⁴ Rev. 3:17 – we say we are rich and need nothing, but we are poor, blind naked. Alternative ending to a Bible time, or for inclusion if used in an hour-long format.