The Reckless Son

Terry Francis · Luke 15:11–32

INTRODUCTION

- I'm afraid sometimes we lack the compassion we need in dealing with sinners.
- Those verses with that father there in verses 22 through 24 is perhaps one of the best pictures of grace and mercy in all of Scripture.
- We have all played the role of the reckless son. We've all gone to God. And we've all said to God, I don't need you anymore.

1 Come to Our Senses

Luke 15:17

- When he came to himself, when he woke up, when he came to his senses.
- And yet it was at that all-time low for this young man that he came to himself.
- Isn't it sad that sometimes it takes a low point in life to wake us up?
- It's time for us to stop pretending that we're not the reckless son.

2 Realize We're the Problem: Take Ownership

Luke 15:18–19

- When he comes to himself, not once does he say, you know what? If my dad hadn't given me my inheritance, I wouldn't be here right now.
- I will go and I will say, I have sinned. I am not worthy. He took ownership for what he had done.
- When we're a sinner, we've got to stand up and admit we're a sinner.
- Never overcome it if you never admit what you've done.

3 Realize God's the Answer

Luke 15:18; 2 Corinthians 12:7–10; Romans 7:15–25

- Verse 18, the son says, I will arise and I will go to my father. Why does he say that? Because he knows his father is the answer.
- You can't get your life right and then come to God. You can only get your life right by coming to God.
- In all of God's plan, his source for overcoming sin and helping doing that on earth was the fellowship of brethren.
- I'm the problem, God's the answer, and I will boast in the greatness and the grace of God.

4 Return to God With a Willingness to Serve

Luke 15:19; Romans 6:23

- He says, look, I'm no longer worthy to be called a son. Just hire me. Just treat me as a hired servant.
- He is humble to go home. He is not arrogant in his response. He is humble. He is begging for forgiveness.
- I'm afraid that sometimes we're so used to God's grace and mercy that we take it for granted.
- We deserve death because of our sins.
- No, we would be humble. That's the picture here. That's the humility when you come home.

5 We've Got to Learn to Confess

Luke 15:21; James 5:14–16

- Confession is not saying I'm sorry. And it's not asking God to forgive us of our sins.
- When was the last time you prayed to God and you were so distraught about sin that you said, I'm a rebellious sinner who's no longer worthy to be called your son?
- When you struggle, you find a brother or two or three and you confess to them.
- Pray with one another. Pray with one another. Secondly, help. Hold accountable.
- The refusal to admit your sin to God is proof of our pride.

THE CHALLENGE

Maybe you've done that, but you've fallen away and you're out living a reckless life again, you're wasting the inheritance. Come back. Come to your senses. Come home.

MY NOTES