

The Prodigal Sons & their Prodigal Father:

Part 6

Celebration

Luke 15:11-32

Introduction:

Feasting: *What do you give a Father who doesn't need anything?*

I. The Feast of Salvation

A Feast, that Celebrates the Love & Lavish Goodness of God:

- A. Is Salvation.
- B. Is the Life of Salvation.
- C. Is the Goal of Salvation.
- D. Keeps God at the Center of our Salvation.
- E. Is the Promise of Salvation.

II. The Feast of Savoring God & His Grace

Feasting: *A Definition*

The whole-hearted engagement of our entire being
- body, mind, emotions & spirit -
With significant personal and material investment
In activities that celebrate the glory, generosity & beauty of God.

Feasting: *Why it is Pursued, not just Permitted, by our Father?*

Because God-centered Celebration & Feasting:

- A. Reveals _____.
- B. Reminds us of God's Mighty & Merciful _____.
- C. Restores a Christian Vision for the Whole of _____.
- D. Recognizes & Magnifies the _____ of God,
the Free-ness of His _____ & the generosity of His many _____.

Anything else slanders God & reinforces catastrophic misrepresentations of our Father.

Luke 15:1 & 11-32 (NIV)

1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

20 So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25 Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

prod·i·gal [**prod-i-guh** l]

-adjective

1. wastefully or recklessly spending:

squandering

2. giving profusely; lavishly abundant;

extravagant

Isaiah 55:1-3

1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts,
Come to the waters;
And you who have no money,
Come, buy and eat.
Yes, come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without price.
2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,
And let your soul delight itself in abundance.
3 Incline your ear, and come to Me.
Hear, and your soul shall live;

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

1 Peter 3:18

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God

Isaiah 35

"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come.. to save you."
5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
6 Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
10 and the ransomed of the LORD will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Isaiah 25:6-8

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine —
the best of meats and the finest of wines.
On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove the disgrace of his people
from all the earth.
The LORD has spoken.