

Certainty... in a world of doubt

The Gospel of Luke

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, September 2/3, 2017 Ray Davis

“Don’t Miss the Party” Luke 15:20-32

The Kingdom of God is a party-feast unlike you’ve ever known! Jesus regularly depicts the salvation He brings as a party-feast (Luke 14:15-24). Our final homecoming (new heavens and new earth) will be marked by the ultimate party-feast (Isa 25). And of course, Jesus’ parable of the lost sons ends with a party-feast cliff hanger. Will the elder son come into the party at the Father’s tender pleading?

What are The Characteristics of Elder Brothers? Vv28-32

Warning: Don’t become a Pharisee about Pharisees!

- ✓ Bitterness: Undercurrent of anger toward life circumstances. (Heb 12:15)
- ✓ Unforgiveness: Hold grudges long and bitterly. (Eph 4:32)
- ✓ Superiority: Look down at people of other races, religions and lifestyles. (Luke 18:9-14)
- ✓ Moralistic: Life is a joyless crushing drudgery motivated by fear and/or pride. (1 John 5:3)
- ✓ Ritualistic: Little or no awe & wonder in their intimacy with God. (Matt 6:5-15)
- ✓ Insecure: Little assurance of God’s love making them sensitive to criticism and rejection. (1 John 4:18-19)
- ✓ Disgust: Fierce and merciless sanctimonious condemning of others. (Matt 7:1-2)

It’s a terrible picture of the religious (elder brother/Pharisees & scribes v2); the irreligious path of the younger brother (tax collectors/sinners v1) is not a better alternative. Though most people don’t find themselves at the extreme places of the younger and elder brother; nonetheless, each of their approaches to life has the seeds of its own destruction taking you in that direction and keeping you from the Father’s party-feast. There are only three ways to live: Religion, Irreligion or The Gospel.

What is the Party-Feast Elder Brothers Miss? Vv20-27

The Gospel is...

- 1) Historical – it is Good News about what God has DONE to make us right with Him. (Eph 2:8-9)
- 2) Experiential – it is a heart experience based on the objective truths of God’s Word. (Ps 34:8; John 2:1-12)
- 3) Personal – it is feeding ourselves daily on the gospel appropriating it, making it more and more central to everything we see, think and feel. (Luke 8:4-15)
- 4) Relational – it is deep involvement in a community of other believers where you experience the joy of knowing and being known and loving and being loved. (Heb 10:24-25)
- 5) Physical – it is a sensitive social conscience and a life poured out not just to meet the spiritual and emotional but also the physical needs of others. (Matt 25:34-40)

Growing Notes

- 1) The Kingdom of God is a party-feast unlike you’ve ever known! What are your thoughts and feelings about that statement? What’s the greatest party-feast you’ve ever attended (i.e. family reunion, holiday, wedding, church gathering, etc.)?
- 2) Read Luke 15:20-32. What stands out to you from this text? Review the characteristics of elder brothers. Which one(s) are most convicting to you? What does the warning mean: Don’t become a Pharisee about Pharisees?
- 3) Though most people don’t find themselves at the extreme places of the younger and elder brothers; nonetheless, each of their approaches to life has the seeds of its own destruction taking you in that direction and keeping you from the Father’s party-feast. Explain.
- 4) Review the characteristics of the party-feast elder brothers miss. Which one(s) do you find most captivating? Which one(s) do you need to grow in? What is God speaking to you through this study? What are your next steps in making sure you don’t miss the Father’s party-feast? Pray.