“A Tale of Two Sons”

David MacGregor
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City Campus

The Heart of the Gospel


• This parable is the crux of what God is wanting to tell us.
• God the Father is on a massive search and rescue mission for humanity.

The Prodigal Son

• Prodigal: “someone who spends money extravagantly or recklessly.”
• The younger son wanted his share of the inheritance… He was really saying to his father, “I want to live without you, I consider you dead.”
• He wastes his inheritance in wild living, before ending up living with the pigs.
• He later returns to beg his father’s forgiveness and ask to live as a servant.

The Dad

• Running to meet his son, the dad is the hero of the story.
• In Jewish society, the father would not run or be so undignified.
• He throws a massive, lavishly extravagant party in honour of his long lost son.

The Elder Brother

• Yet this is a story of two sons who are lost.
• Jesus was speaking to Pharisees (religious leaders) and a group of sinful people (Luke 15:1-2)
• The elder brother was angry “This is unfair!” with his father honouring his shameful brother and spending more of his inheritance in celebration of his return.
• The elder brother is the “good brother” – he’s lived a good life, stayed home and “slaved” on the farm.
• He doesn’t have the same heart as his father, a heart of great love.
• Jesus is saying to the Pharisees “Here are all these lost people around us… longing to come and know the father… and you don’t care about them!!”
• The elder brother is focussed on himself – he is selfish (Luke 15: 28).
• It’s very easy for us to think Christianity is all about us.
• Are we missional? Are we interested in people being saved?
The Father’s Heart
• Both brothers were lost: one was lost in sin, one was lost in self righteousness.
• The father went out to look for them both.
• The elder brother didn’t want to sacrifice his money and time for his prodigal brother.
• So often as Christians we are content with the way things are.
• We can be in the Father’s house, good people, even obeying the Father and yet still not carry His heart.
• The father spent His days waiting for the son.
• He was not content with the way things were.
• If we have the same heart as our Heavenly Father, we share His mission for reaching lost people.
• We are a church that unashamedly cares about lost people.
• This is the Father’s heart!
• God is inviting us to join the mission to find lost people, to invest our money and resources where His heart is... reaching hearts.
• A missional church is where you don’t know everyone, where things can be messy and not everyone is like us – but it’s living out the Father’s heart!

The Other Brother
• The Bible says Jesus is our brother.
• He is the kind older brother, who has the heart of our Father.

Luke 19: 10

• Jesus came to give EVERYTHING to help missing sons and daughters find their heavenly father.
• If we love Jesus... we join him in his mission.

UP, IN and OUT Questions
UP — What things in my heart are blocking me from loving as our Father does?
IN — How can we follow Jesus’ example?
OUT — Are we in this for ourselves, or are we passionate about being a missional church?