

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL'S FATHER

May 14, 2014
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Luke 15:11-32

The parable of the prodigal son could more accurately be titled “the parable of the prodigal’s Father.” It is a story told by Jesus both to the spiritually marginalized “tax collectors and sinners” as well as the religious elite – “the Pharisees and the scribes.” His goal? To give both groups a crystal clear picture of the heart of their God as a Father who passionately, deeply and unconditionally loves...well, each and every one of them, wherever they are on the journey.

But the parable might not JUST be a picture of how all of us are loved...but could also be seen as at least a subtle call to become “God-the-Father-like” in the way that we love!!!!

Could this story be a vivid portrait, a gripping picture of the kind of love Jesus was referring to when He said:

“A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another...as I have loved you – if you love like that, the world will know that you are My followers.” ***John 13:34-35***

In other words, could this parable be not only a picture of how the Father loves each of us as men...***but also a call to each of us to become a Father to many other sons and daughters who are looking for the love of the Father...but can’t seem to find it?***

NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you identify more with the younger son partying in a far country...or the older son who is seen to be “close” to the Father on a daily basis? Why?
2. In what clear ways does the Father demonstrate His deep and passionate love to both sons? What keeps each of them from receiving the Father’s love?
3. What barriers stand in the way of YOU receiving His love on a daily basis – not just in your left-brain where you cognitively process information – but deep inside your gut where you really “live your life?”
4. What do you REALLY think and feel about the proposition: **“God the Father is not just giving us His love as sons...but calling us to be Fathers who give away His love to many other sons and daughters.”??** Do you feel excitement? Fear? Amazement? Passion?
5. How would embracing this call to be a spiritual Father change your life? What barriers stand in the way of embracing this call?
6. How do you envision the world around you changing if even just the men in Huddle seriously engaged the journey of **“being loved by the Father in order to become a Father who gives His love away to many other sons and daughters”?**

APPLICATION:

- Accept the call to become a **FATHER** to many other sons and daughters who are looking for the LOVE of the FATHER...but can’t seem to find it.