

Offering: The Prodigal God

Text: Luke 15:11-32 (pages 874-875)

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We live in a paid system.

Two lost sons. *Luke 15:11-13*

Longing for Home. *Luke 15:14-19*

When God runs. *Luke 15:20-32*

Throwing parties for the neighbors.

Food for Thought for the week of April 2, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

1. Our culture always demands payment in return for services, an accounting system for our actions, and a balance sheet as a way of keeping track of value.

How has the church bought into this system?

How is this so different from how God sees things?

How does using the cultural system of accounting change our view of God?

2. Describe the various ways the father demonstrated his love, generosity, and extravagance? List some ways that God has demonstrated His love, generosity, and extravagance in our lives. Be specific.

What possible outcomes occur when we experience and recognize God's lavishness?

3. How did the younger son demonstrate his belief in the "payment system"? The older son?

4. Describe how both sons were guilty of actually hating their father. What lessons can we learn today from this comparison?

5. Why do we so easily miss the sin of the older son and, in fact, see him as the honorable son?

6. What would the reaction of the people of that culture be to the younger son? The older son? The father?

7. How are our societal values in sync with those of the sons and opposed to the values of the father?

8. How does our culture drive us to be self-focused?

9. How can our "rights" interfere with our view of God?

10. One author stated, "The way to avoid Jesus is to keep all his commandments." Explain how this might fit our thinking today in the church.

Application

List some practical ways that we can become more aware of the generosity of God.

How can we truly love God and offer our lives to Him out of awe and affection not out of duty or fear?

April 2, 2017



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