

Title: Heaven's Joy!

Text: (Lk 15:1-32)

(Vs 1-2) (Matt 9:12-13)

Completely oblivious of the Father's Love!

Let Me Illustrate this.

(Vs 3-6) Illus: *You ever lose a sheep?*

(Vs 7) Completely oblivious of Heaven's Joy!

Let Me Illustrate this:

(Vs 8-9) Loss of Something Precious!

Illus: You ever lose your wedding ring?

(Vs 10) Completely oblivious of Heaven's Joy!

Let Me Illustrate this:

(Vs 11-12) Presumptuous to ask, Dad isn't dead Yet

Explain Inheritance: Jr. Gets 1/3rd.

This was not the will of the Father.

(Prov 15:5) *A fool despiseth his father's instruction:*

A Fool cannot be reasoned with!

(Prov 12:15) *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes:*

7 Signs of Stiffneckedness:

1. Certainty that you are right.
2. Refusal to listen to anyone else.
3. Defensive when criticized.
4. Making excuses for your shortcomings.
5. Lashing out at others.
6. No desire to examine your own life.
7. Repeated pattern of misbehavior.
8. Prayer without repentance.

The Smartest thing the father did, was let him go!

(Vs 13-14a) "*And when he had spent all*" ***You will spend All***

The World is happy to take from you all you have.

Your Health, Money, & Youth.

(Vs 14b) Life never goes the way you think.

Problems always arise, b/c you are outside God's will.

Sin always leaves you empty!

(Prov 5:8-11; Prov 6:26)

(Vs 15) Sin will lead you to do things you wouldn't

normally find yourself doing. (Swine=Abomination)

(Vs 16) Hunger has a way of bringing our Pride down.

Hunger has a way of bringing us back to Reality.

(Vs 17) Jr. finally hits Bottom - & was fortunate to be alive!

We all know of people who died before they hit bottom

(Vs 18-19) Jr. Realized his BETRAYAL!

Shame becomes Real!

(Prov 11:2) *When pride cometh, then cometh shame:*

(Vs 20a & 21) ***Repentance!*** - *He arose, & came to his father*

(Vs 21) - (1 John 1:9)

(Vs 20b) This entire time, Jr. was completely oblivious, as to how much the Father loved him.

(Vs 22-24) Heaven's Joy! - (Luke 15:7,10)

(Vs 25-28) The Elder Brother is a picture of the Pharisees

I. Attitude of Unforgiveness: Lk 15:28-30

A. Self Righteous: VS 29 *Look at me, I serve, I Obey,*

B. Self Deceived: He didn't see himself as he really is!

(Matt 7:3-4)

1. We Compare ourselves to others: (2 Cor 10:12)

False perception of His own righteousness!

We judge our righteousness by what others do that we wouldn't: Sex, Alcohol, Drugs, Stealing, etc.

Avoid human comparisons: Vs 29a "I served"

You can always find fault with someone,
Easy to find someone worse than you, even in this room!
(1 Pet 2:21) *We are not the standard, Jesus is!*

Resist exaggerations to make ourself look good: Vs 29b

"Neither Transgressed I at any time"

That's a Lie—Don't think too highly of yourself! Rom 3:23!

Illus: *You live in the same wad of flesh everybody else does.*
(2 Cor 10:12) *We Are Un Wise!*

Seek only God's commendation: Humility, honesty, integrity are spiritual essentials for Christian maturity.
Let God Exhalt you! (James 4:10)

C. Self Centered: He felt Cheated. Vs 29c yet thou never

1. He had a Pity Party:

"I Never Get to" "They always"

He thought he had missed out on all the fun.

Bubba had stood at the edge of the field

He saw the glow of the lights of the Far Country.

He could hear the music of the Far Country.

He saw the Caravans heading to the Far Country.

He thought he had missed out on all the fun.

He wanted to go to the Hog pen too.

When you go to the Hog pen of this world, you always come out stinky!

Illus: *Getting sprayed by a Skunk.*

*Tomato juice is the only thing that lessens the smell.
You have to wait for it to wear off.*

So is the stench from the Filth of this World!

D. Selfish: Greedy Vs 29d "Never gavest me a kid"

I would have been happy with just a goat.

"He got a calf and I didn't..."

(Vs 12) *And he divided unto **them** his living*

(vs 31) *All that I have is **thine!***

It wasn't your stuff Anyway!

(Matt 20:10-15) *Working for a penny a day.*

Illus: *Kids whine on Christmas, It is not YOUR birthday!
It's Jesus'.*

1. The World Owes Me: Illus: *In the Movie Madeline; She had told all these neat things about the hospital and she had seen, then that night all the girls from the school laid in bed and cried because they didn't get to have appendicitis like Madeline. She left out all the pain she went through and how she almost died.*

2 I have rights:

Illus: *Are you really that blind to think that you are really missing out?*

Are you really that STUPID, to believe that you can go to the Hog pen and come out clean?

II. He had No Joy for his brothers return Because he had no forgiveness:

A. Don't forget where you came from: (Ps 40:2)

JR. had the right attitude!

(Lk 15:17-19) *Didn't just think about it,
He humbled himself & did it!* (Vs 21)

1. **Recognize our own sin:** (Is 64:6; Rom 3:10, 3:23)
2. **Accept Forgiveness:** (Eph 1:7) He will forgive you if you trust him.
3. **Forgive and be forgiven:** (Matt 6:14-15; 18:32-35)
Remember the extreme debt He forgave you of!

B. Maybe you cannot forgive others: because you yourself have never been forgiven:

Illus: Maybe you have no grasp on the concept, because you have never experienced it yourself!

DEF~Clearing the record of those who have wronged me and allowing God to Love them through me.

(Ps 103:14) *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

(Mic 7:19) *thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*

Illus: The older brother was unregenerate, because he was counting on his own good works and obedience to guarantee him the kingdom.

C. If you cannot forgive others:
Then you need to be saved!

III. He could not forgive, because He didn't realize how precious his brother is to the Father!

Completely oblivious, as to how much the Father loved him.
(Vs 30) *"Thy Son"* he blamed the Father for this.

A. Maybe you don't think you can be forgiven:

Are you blaming God for your Sin?
Are you blaming God for Their sin?

You have forgotten how precious you are to the Savior!

1. You have never met my Jesus!
(Heb 7:25) *Save to the Uttermost.*

2. **God's Love is not dependent upon your behavior:** (Jer 31:3; Deut 7:7-8)

3. **Lk 23:34** If the Roman Soldiers were precious to Jesus and could be forgiven, **SO CAN YOU!**
(1Tim1:15) *Chief of Sinners*

3. **You are Precious to Jesus!**
You are the reason He came! LK 19:10!

2. **Rom 5:8** Jesus was motivated to action & sacrifice!

Let us be like the FATHER rather than the OLDER BROTHER!

Are you Completely oblivious to how much the Father loves You?

Are you Completely oblivious to how much the Father loves others?

Are you Completely oblivious to how to bring Joy in Heaven?