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"Lost Son, Loving Father"
Luke 15:11-24
Pastor John Miller

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I. Introduction

    A. A.W. Tozer, in his book "The Knowledge of the Holy," opens with this statement: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."
        1. Why? Because life's greatest problems are solved when we think right thoughts about God.
    B. In Luke 15, Jesus reveals the heart of God the Father who loves, seeks, forgives, and restores lost sinners, and that Heaven rejoices over one sinner that repents
    C. In Luke 15, Jesus gives three parables (vv. 1-3)
        1. Lost sheep (vv. 4-7)
        2. Lost coin (vv. 8-10)
        3. The lost son and the loving father (vv. 11-24)

II. The Son Rebelling (Luke 15:11-16)

    A. The three characters (v. 11)
        1. The parable of the Prodigal Son is about two sons, but its main focus is on "The Father," who is God
    B. Leaving the father's house (vv. 12-13a)
        1. The father lets the prodigal go
        2. To parents of prodigals (even God)
    C. Living in the far country (vv. 13b-16)
        1. Jesus said, "If you seek to find your life you will lose it, but if you lose your life…"
        2. You were made for God!

III. The Son Repenting (Luke 15:17-20a)

    A. "Godly sorrow that leads to repentance"
        1. "The goodness of God leads you to repentance" (Romans 2:4)
    B. He saw his true condition (v. 17)
        1. "He came to himself" (v. 17)
    C. He made an honest confession (v. 18)
    D. He had a humble admission (v. 19)
        1. He's broken (Psalm 51)
    E. He had true repentance (v. 20a)

IV. The Father Forgiving and Restoring (Luke 15:20b-24)

    A. The father saw him (v. 20)
    B. The father had compassion (v. 20)
    C. The father ran (v. 20)
    D. The father hell on his neck (v. 20)
    E. The father kissed him (v. 20)

1. "The son" (v. 21)
2. Everything the younger son was looking for, he found when he came back to the father

V. Conclusion

A. The mirror (have you seen yourself?)
   1. Are you living in rebellion against God?
   2. If so,
      a) Realize (sinner)
      b) Repent (turn)
      c) Receive (forgiveness)