

LIVING IN THE PRESENT

LUKE 15:11-32

INTRODUCTION:

1. Though there are consequence of our past decisions that we must live with, we can live in the present in peace.
2. To be at peace with ourselves, we need to see ourselves through the eyes of God revealed through the parable of the prodigal son.

I. THE SETTING

- A. **LUKE 15.1:** *“Then all the tax collectors and the sinners...”*
 1. Tax collectors: Thieves and traitors. (Luke 19.2,8)
 2. Sinners: The worst of the worst. (Matt. 21.31)
- B. **LUKE 15.2:** *“And the Pharisees and scribes complained”*
 1. Pharisees: Strict and hypocritical. (Acts 26.5; Matt. 23.4)
 2. Scribes: Author of man-made laws. (cf. Matt. 2.4)
- C. **LUKE 15.2:** *“This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”* Jesus, the compassionate.

II. THE SIGNIFICANCE

- A. This is a parable about the compassion of a father.
 1. The word “father” is found twelve times.
 2. The father represents God and how He feels about his children who come back to him. (Luke 15.32)
- B. Though I have committed sins in my past, I can live in peace in the present because of how God feels about me.

III. THE SCENES

- A. Scene #1: The wasteful son.
 1. **LUKE 15.11,12:** The son demanded his inheritance.
 2. **LUKE 15.13-16:** He lived a wasteful life.
 3. **LUKE 15.17:** *“But when he came to himself.”*
 4. **LUKE 15.18,19:** He felt unworthy.
- B. Scene #2: The compassionate father.
 1. **LUKE 15.20:** He recognized his son.
 2. **LUKE 15.21-24:** He welcomed his son home.
- C. Scene #3: The jealous son.
 1. **LUKE 15.25-27:** He heard the celebration.
 2. **LUKE 15.28-30:** He was petty and jealous.
 3. **LUKE 15.31,32:** *“We should make merry.”*

CONCLUSION: This is how God feels about you!

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: info@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

September 26, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THE EXAMPLES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Why should we study the Old Testament? We are not living under the authority of Old Testament law. The Old Testament is obsolete, and *“what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away”* (Heb. 8.13). Yet there is still great value to be found in the Old Testament. Namely that the Old Testament contains examples that will help us live for God today.

There are two sets of examples that are worthy of mention. First, there are the negative examples of individual who made mistakes. In 1 Corinthians 10, reference is made to the Israelite who wandered in the wilderness. The inspired writer reflects on their lusting after evil things, their sexual immorality, their testing of Christ, their complaining. And then says that *“all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition”* (1 Cor. 10.11).

Second, there are the positive examples of suffering individuals who are examples of an enduring spirit through faith and obedience. Hebrews 11 records the example of several Old Testament characters such as Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. Chapter 12 begins by referencing these as witnesses to the kind of faith we are to have (Heb. 12.1).

What a blessing that the Old Testament was preserved for us. It is not just a collection of interesting stories taken from history. It is a collection of real individuals whose examples will help us live our lives for God.

CLP

OVERCOMING BURNOUT

MARK 8:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. Sometimes Jesus felt tired from all the people wanting something from Him. So Jesus sought privacy. (Mark 7.24)
2. Burnout is physical and mental collapse because of stress.
 - a) The cause of burnout: Popularity.
 - b) The cure for burnout: Privacy.
3. Consider an additional cause and cure.

I. THE CAUSE OF BURNOUT

- A. Burnout is caused by hostility.
 1. Jesus was confronted by the Pharisees and Sadducees who came testing Him. (Mark 8.11)
 2. Jesus was opposed by the doctrines of the religious leaders. (Mark 8.14,15)
 3. Jesus was troubled by a discussion between His apostles showing their lack of understanding. (Mark 8.16-21)
 4. Jesus is weighed down by His approaching mistreatment and crucifixion. (Mark 8.31)
 5. Jesus is corrected by Peter concerning His arrest and crucifixion. (Mark 8.32.33)
- B. How did Jesus feel from the hostility he encountered?
 1. He maintained His integrity. (Mark 8.12,13)
 2. He displayed His humanity. (Mark 8.27-29,33)

II. THE CURE FOR BURNOUT

- A. Jesus kept Himself focused by remembering His identity.
 1. **MARK 8.29:** *Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."* (cf. Matt. 16.17,18)
 2. To help us overcome burnout caused by hostility, we need to remember our identity. (1 John 3.1; 2 Tim. 3.12)
- B. Jesus kept Himself focused by remembering His purpose.
 1. **MARK 8.31:** *"the Son of Man must suffer many things... and be killed, and after three days rise again."*
 2. Jesus knew why He was born. (John 18.37)
 3. To help us overcome burnout caused by hostility, we need to remember why we are here. (1 Cor. 6.20)
 4. **1 PETER 4.16:** *"If anyone suffers as a Christian..."*

CONCLUSION: Staying focused will help keep your path straight.

ARE YOU EDIFYING THE CHURCH?

The church is not an institution. It is people. Peter refers to the church as a building comprised of "living stones" who are "being built up a spiritual house" (1 Pet. 2.5). In this spiritual house, every member has an important role to fill (Rom. 12.4-8). And every role is necessary and important (1 Cor. 12.12ff).

Though each member serves in a different capacity, there is a common goal for which we should all strive. That common goal is found in 1 Corinthians 14. In this context, reference is made to the various spiritual gifts. There were some who spoke prophecy. There were others who spoke in tongues. There were still others who interpreted those tongues. Then there were those who taught, sang, and had miraculous knowledge (1 Cor. 14.1-11).

All of this was performed to achieve one thing: "that the church may receive edification" (1 Cor. 14.5). Then we find these words in verse 12: "Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel" (1 Cor. 14.12). Keep reading and we are later told to "Let all things be done for edification" (1 Cor. 14.26). All the talents that we have in the various functions and acts of worship are to be done in a way that edifies the brethren who make up the church are edified.

The word "edification" is a combination of two different Greek words. The first word is "oikos" is translated as "house." The second word "doma" is translated as "roof." Put together, the word translated as "edification" describes either the building up of a structure or the structure itself. We are the church collectively, the spiritual building comprised of living stones individually. The common goal that we all share is to build each other up and strengthen each other. You do not lead prayer, lead a song, preach a sermon, teach a class, or serve in any capacity to glorify yourself and impress your brethren. You serve, whether from the pulpit or from the pew, to build up and strengthen the church.

How do we strengthen our brethren in the Lord's church? 1 Corinthians 14 is all about our common goal to edify the church. If you back up all the way to the very beginning, notice the first words of the chapter: "Pursue love" (1 Cor. 14.1). Compare that to what we find in 1 Corinthians 8.1 which says that "knowledge puffs up, but love edifies." In whatever abilities you use in the work of the church, do so out of a love for God and a love for your brethren, and watch the church flourish (1 Cor. 16.14). CLP