



SERMON NOTE AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ " 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

2. Choose Costly Embrace

- **See the Cost**
- **See the Cost of not Embracing**
- **Pay the Price**

In hospitality, the stranger is welcomed into a safe, personal, and comfortable place, a place of respect and acceptance and friendship. Even if only briefly, the stranger is included in a life-giving and life-sustaining network of relations. Such welcome involves attentive listening and a mutual sharing of lives and life stories. It requires an openness of heart, a willingness to make one's life visible to others, and a generosity of time and resources.

- Christine Pohl

Embrace Action over Talk

- **Redefine Success**
- **Prioritize Authentic Relationships**
- **Embrace Life Stage and Embrace Peer Group**

Discussion Questions

Sharing Life Together

1. **What were family celebrations and get-togethers like when you were child?**
2. **What is one of your best memories of celebrating with your family?**

Reflecting on the Message Together

- 1. What do you think are qualities that help you feel like you are experiencing a warm relational environment?**
- 2. Where do you experience warmth in your church family?**
- 3. Have there been times when you experienced exclusion or relational coldness in your church family?**
- 4. Overall, how would you rate the relational warmth of our church family?**
- 5. What are challenges from moving to the “kids table” up to the “adult table”?**
- 6. In the sermon notes, read the quote from Christine Pohl. What stands out to you in this description of Christian hospitality?**
- 7. What is your biggest takeaway from the message?**

Meditating on the Scriptures

- 8. As you look at the entire parable of Luke 15:11-32, what are all the ways you see the father being gracious to His sons?**
- 9. What are some of the Old Testament stories or books that help prepare us to see that the father in the parable is a great image of God?**
- 10. Which character in the parable most represents your current attitude? Why?**
- 11. What is your biggest take away from this story?**