

Sermon Topic: A Reason to Rejoice – Luke 15 – Matt Cassidy

Introduction: Matt is starting a four weeks series on the parables of Jesus in the Gospels. The parables generally teach a single concept in a form that the audience of the first century could readily grasp. Usually they help the audience to grasp a deeper concept about the character of God or His kingdom. Understanding the concept helps us to live by its timeless principle. Today's parable focuses on the loving and compassionate character of God.

Study Questions:

- 1. How would you describe rejoicing? What causes you to rejoice? Describe a time you had lost some thing and were excited when you found it. What kinds of things do we do in order to find some thing that is lost?**
- 2. Read Luke 15:3-10. Why do you think Jesus included these two stories prior to the story involving a father and his son? What do you think it means that heaven rejoices v 7 & 10 over a repentant sinner? What does this communicate about what God values? Look at v 7 & 10 again, what is the different implication between these two passages?**
- 3. Sick at Home: Read Luke 15:11-13. What seems to be the attitude of the younger son? How does this attitude impact the rest of the family? Why do you think the father met his son's demands? Describe how hard it is to let your children do something that you do not agree with?**
- 4. Homesick: Read Luke 15:13-20a. Describe the situation the son now finds himself in? How has his attitude changed?**
- 5. Home Again: Read Luke 15: 20-24. What does the son recognize he has done in his confession to his father? How does the father's reaction overwhelm the son? How is this a great description of God's love and compassion toward a repentant sinner?**
- 6. The rest of the story: Read Luke 15:25-32. What is the older son's reaction to his father's love and compassion to the repentant son? How have you seen believers today react in a similar way to a focus on calling sinners to repentance?**
- 7. Application: With Resurrection Sunday coming in a month we want to open our church doors and welcome outsiders in. Who are five people you want to pray for over these weeks to invite to our Sunday Easter services? Why did you pick these people? Trade a copy of your list with someone else in the group.**