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## The Fathers Embrace

- Jesus came to reveal the Father.
- Jesus constantly told us what His Kingdom is like.

THE FATHER'S Embrace

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## The Fathers Embrace

**Luke 15:1 - 2**  
"Then all the tax collectors and sinners drew near to him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, 'This Man receives sinners and eats with them.' So He spoke this parable to them..."

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# The Fathers Embrace

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## The First Son:

Luke 15: 11 - 24

- He runs toward his son.
- He fell on Him and kissed Him.
- Put on him the festive robe of honor.
- Ring on his hand.
- Sandals on his feet.
- Fatted calf.

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## The Parable of the second son:

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### The Second Son:

Luke 15:25 - 32

The parable of second son speaks of a religious system which has lost connection with the Head, Jesus Christ.

Col 2:18 - 23

'...having an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility...'

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The rebellious son never understood what made him a son, it wasn't his behavior, but his birth. Likewise, the religious son never understood what made him a son, it was not his efforts, nor his success, but his birth. **To intimately know what made us sons is what positions us to carry what only sons can carry.**

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## The Parable of the second son: 7

**Luke 15:25 - 32**

"Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him."

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## The Parable of the second son: 8

"So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

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## The Parable of the second son: 9

**1. Religion is joyless**

**2. Religion creates positional identity.**

- Culturally, the eldest son was to co-host the celebration with his father, and he was not consulted.

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## The Parable of the second son: 10

3. Religion values the traditional structure more than the people in it.

- **Angry** - which brought shame
- **He did not go in** - which brought shame
- **His Father came out and pleaded** - which brought shame.

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## The Parable of the second son: 11

The religious expression of this faithful son completely misrepresented the heart of his Father.

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## The Parable of the second son: 12

**John 15:15**

"A servant doesn't know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends."

- The servants main goal is to support the structure which provides him with position and value, the friends main goal is to support the person.

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## The Parable of the second son: 13

**'He was angry...'**

- Religious hearts are angered when grace is offered to fallen siblings, whereas love celebrates restoration.

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## The Parable of the second son: 14

**'He would not go in... '**

- He was not free in his fathers house, and the result was isolation.

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## The Parable of the second son: 15

**'Therefore his Father came out and pleaded with him...'**

- It's always in the Fathers heart to reveal truth to our hearts, to make us free, and He calls us aside to do so.

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## The Parable of the second son: 16

### 4. Religion makes service a task rather than the delight of a son.

- A son serves because he's part of a unit, a slave serves to prove his worth.

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## The Parable of the second son: 17

### 5. Religion celebrates wage over inheritance.

- The son was saying, I serve and obey... then you give because I have earned!

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## The Parable of the second son: 18

### 1 Cor 3:9 - 13

"For we are Gods fellow workers; you are Gods field, you are Gods building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, **wood, hay, straw**, each ones work will become clear, for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each ones work, of what sort it is."

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## The Parable of the second son: 19

**"There are two types of people in the body of Christ, lovers and workers, and lovers will always get more work done than will workers."**

*Mike Bickle*

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## The Parable of the second son: 20

**Our Father wont reinforce an unhealthy identity, He is better than that!**

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## The Parable of the second son: 21

### **6. Religion forgets the dream.**

- Performance mindsets forget how to receive the expressions of grace that only a Father can give.

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## The Parable of the second son: 22

### 7. Religion teaches us to earn what has already been given.

- Religion always tries to earn what it has already been given, but it can only be received, not earned.

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## The Parable of the second son: 23

### The Religious System vs The Relational Believer:

- Where religion is joyless, relationship celebrates joyously with all in the house.
- Where religion creates positional identity, relationship values simply being with each other.
- Where religion values the structure above people, relationship remembers why the structure exists.

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## The Parable of the second son: 24

### The Religious System vs The Relational Believer:

- Where religion produces task orientated slaves, relationship teaches sons to take ownership in their house.
- Where religion celebrates wage over inheritance, relationship makes inheritance possible through birth.

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## The Parable of the second son: 25

### The Religious System vs The Relational Believer:

- Where religion forgets the dream, relationship grows because of it.
- Where religion tries to earn what can only be given, relationship invites inheritance, as it shows honor to the one who gives it.

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## The Fathers Embrace 26

Luke 12:32

'Do not fear little flock, for it is your  
Fathers good pleasure to give you the  
kingdom'

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## 27

