

Apr 24, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

A right attitude with your family begins with a right attitude toward God

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord, grant me the courage to confess my faults to those I've offended, and the grace to accept the confessions of those who have offended me. May I become a minister of reconciliation to bless my family on Your behalf Amen.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation

(2 Cor 5:18 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", June 6, 2006)

Series: The Gift of Faith

UNIT: Fullness of Faith

NEXT WEEK

Increasing Faith
(Luke 17:1-10)

Reconciling Faith

Luke 15:11-24

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches about an example of God's desire for us to have **Reconciling Faith**. The **study's aim** is to understand the spiritual elements in reconciling with others. The **study's application** is to have the spiritual courage to reconcile with a person with whom there may be a broken relationship. *(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

Lesson Introduction and Background

While the parable of the prodigal son is powerful in its own right, its application is magnified when we reconsider its context. Luke 15:1, 2 says that Jesus offered this parable in response to complaints from the Pharisees and the teachers of the law—religious leaders of the day and experts on the Bible. Those folks “muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” The self-righteous religious leaders were looking for a Messiah who would embrace fellowship with the righteous while rejecting the unrighteous. But here was this fellow Jesus doing the opposite! The fact that Jesus was willing to receive sinners, going so far as even to eat with them!, served as proof to the Pharisees and teachers of the law that he didn’t appreciate the importance of remaining “clean.” What the religious leaders seemed to have overlooked was the possibility of repentance. Jesus came not “to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32). While the parable can be viewed on a personal level in illustrating God’s acceptance of repentant individuals, many students see a larger theme here: the prodigal son as representing the Gentiles. Surely the religious experts of Jesus’ day had read Isaiah 49:6, where God promised that his servant would not only “restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel,” but also was to be “a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth” (quoted in Acts 13:47). This speaks to how we are to view people-groups today. As Jesus welcomed them, so must we. It is our Great Commission to do so (Matthew 28:19, 20). By not doing so, are we pretending to know better than God? *(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

In our fallen world, we often live with broken relationships. We face choices just like the father and the older brother. We can choose to continue a broken relationship or seek reconciliation. Our faith in Christ should lead us to take the lead in seeking reconciliation, even if the problem is not our fault. The Scripture gives an important principle in Matthew 5:23-24. "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remember that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift. . . first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." We cannot wait for the person to come to us. We must take the first step, or we may never experience restoration. Before we approach the person, we must make sure we have forgiven him or her unconditionally. Will the person always respond positively? No, but we are still obligated to seek reconciliation. The father in our lesson could have rejected his son; instead, he made the choice to reconcile with him, even though, humanly speaking, the son did not deserve such favor. When the older son discovered what had happened, he became angry (Luke 15:25-28). His father pleaded with him to show the same spirit of reconciliation, but he refused to do so. "These many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends" (vs. 29). No amount of reasoning would change his mind (vss. 31 -32). The older son's recalcitrance appears to be directed more toward his father than his younger brother, He could have agreed with his father and joined the festivities, happy that his brother had returned. Instead, he made the choice to resist any reconciliation with his father, creating a barrier that would have a negative impact on all three of them. *(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

THE SIN - REBELLION (15:11-13)

Rebellion usually starts with impatience

Impatience for wanting what we don't have
(James 4:2)

Impatience because we expect great miracles
when simple things will help (2 Kings 5:11-12)

Impatience for what we call fairness (Luke 9:54)

Impatience to do what we want and disregarding
God's priority (Luke 10:40)

Rebellion thrives on thinking we know what's best for us

Youthful thinking and decision making
sometimes leads us to rebellion (Ps 25:7)

Rebellion by trying to follow the desires of our
heart (Eccl 11:9)

Rebellion through arrogance (Deut 1:43)

Rebellion through following our corrupt and
sinful nature (2 Peter 2:10)

Rebellion through trying to run from God
(Jonah 1:1-3)

Rebellion ends in loss

Loss of life and possessions (Num 16:30)

Loss of forgiveness (Ex 23:20-21)

Loss of God's intimacy (Isa 63:10)

Loss of God's blessings (Lev 26:14-20)

THE REPENTANCE - COMING TO OUR SENSES (15:14-19)

Repentance begins with an unfulfilled need

The need to clear ourselves of guilt (2 Cor. 7:11)

The need to find satisfaction (Amos 4:6)

The need to enjoy the fruits of our labor
(Haggai 1:6)

Repentance involves circumstances that causes us to rethink our situation

Rethinking our decisions that got us in the
situation (Jonah 2:7-10)

Rethinking our attitude of pride (Job 40:1-5)

Rethinking our understanding of who God is
(Acts 9:3-6)

Repentance results in a humbled changed mind

Humbled by seeing our weakness (Luke 22:59-
62)

Humbled by being made to feel ashamed (2
Thess 3:14-15)

Humbled by knowing that God's grace is
sufficient (2 Cor 12:7-10)

Humbled by a changed lifestyle and service
(Philem 10-16)

THE FORGIVENESS - A RECONCILING FATHER (15:20-24)

Forgiveness starts with God's compassion

Compassion because God is slow to anger and
abounds in love (Psalm 86:15)

Compassion that God longs to provide (Isaiah
30:18)

Compassion that resulted in us not being
consumed (Lament. 3:22)

Compassion that causes God to relent from
what we deserve (Joel 2:13)

Forgiveness involves confession

Confession that confirms guilt (1 Chron. 21:8)

Confession that agrees with God's view (Psalm
32:5)

Confession of sins to God leads to forgiveness
(1 John 1:9)

Confession along with repentance leads to
healing (2 Chron 7:14)

Forgiveness results in rebirth and joy

Results in rebirth and joy because of being made
perfect forever (Heb 10:14)

Results in rebirth and joy because Jesus was
sacrificed once for all (Heb 9:28)

Results in rebirth and joy because forgiveness
sanctifies (Acts 26:17-18)

Results in rebirth and joy because of being
rescued from a dominion of darkness (Col 1:13-
14)