



Part 2: A Surprising Way to Be Lost

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Jesus demonstrates that there are two ways to be lost.

THE DECEPTION OF RELIGION

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy

Q – What is God like? The wrong answer to this question will have disastrous consequences for your life!

THE FATHER’S RECKLESS GRACE FOR SINNERS

Prodigal = Recklessly Extravagant

Prod-i-gal/ adjective

- Recklessly extravagant
- Having spent everything

“The Father’s welcome to the repentant son was literally reckless, because he refused to ‘reckon’ or count his sin against him or demand repayment. This response offended the elder son and most likely the local community.”
Tim Keller, *Prodigal God*

“Jesus is showing us the God of Great Expenditure ...God’s reckless grace is our greatest hope, a life-changing experience” Tim Keller, *Prodigal God*

Reckless Grace to the Lawless and Irreligious (vs. 11-24)

- The scandalous request of the younger son
- The scandalous grace of the Father

Reckless Grace to the Moral and Religious (vs. 25-32)

- The scandalous behavior of the older son
- The scandalous grace of the Father
- Hearts revealed - In the mouth of the older son, Jesus exposes the spirit of legalism and false religion = “God owes me, because of what I’ve done for Him.”

“This means that you can rebel against God and be alienated from him either by breaking his rules or by keeping all of them diligently. It’s a shocking message: Careful obedience to God’s law may serve as a strategy for rebelling against God....you don’t need a Savior who pardons you by free grace, for you are your own Savior.” Tim Keller, The Prodigal God

GOD’S LOVE AND GRACE ARE RELATIONAL, NOT TRANSACTIONAL

Both sons had a transactional view of their relationship with their father. The younger son thought he could return as a hired servant (v. 19). His deep experience of the father’s grace moved into the experienced reality of a secure, beloved child.

The older brother had a transactional view of his relationship as well, but he does not receive the father’s radical love.

Jesus has come to destroy our transactional views of God and salvation for the Gospel of reckless grace. Jesus has come to purchase for us the right to become beloved children of the Father.

“Jesus, the beloved Son, does not hoard this experience for Himself. He invites and calls us to share the same intimate and liberating relationship.” Brennan Manning, Abba’s Child

Q – Are you living as an orphan, slave, or beloved child?

“You are the son[daughter] of a kind, strong, and engaged Father, a Father wise enough to guide you in the Way, generous enough to provide for your journey, offering to walk with you every step. This is perhaps the hardest thing for us to believe – really believe, down deep in our hearts, so that it changes us forever, changes the way we approach each day.” John Eldredge, Fathered by God