

Not about good or bad but about humility or pride

Bible passage

Luke 15: 11-32 *Parable of the Lost Son*

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." (NirV)

Devotion

The eldest son's bitter reaction stood in stark contrast to his father's joy. The eldest son felt that his younger brother did not deserve the festivities, because he had squandered all his money on prostitutes. He was bitter because he had been a loyal son all those years and yet did not receive festive recognition for it.

Jesus wants to show the Pharisees (the audience) that they are lost, not in spite of their goodness but because of their goodness. They use their goodness as self-justification. The eldest son uses moral conformity (goodness) to get to his father's wealth and status. The youngest son (sinners) uses self-discovery (sins) to get to his father's stuff. Both sons are lost. The youngest son is lost in his lostness and the elder son is lost in his goodness. Self-discovery and moral conformity can never save you. It doesn't go deep enough to take you to the father's heart. How can we be saved?

1. We need the initiating love of the Father (Luke 15: 20, 28)
2. We need to repent of our sins as well as the wrong reasons why we do good.
3. We need to be melted and moved at what it costs the Father to bring us back home.

Prayer

Lord, I want to show by my way of living that I love You.

Today's Quote

Hurt leads to bitterness, bitterness to anger, travel too far that road and the way is lost.

—Terry Brooks

be saved