

LOOKING AHEAD

Date	Scripture	Message
Sept. 20-21	Galatians 5:1	Gospel Freedom
Sept. 27-28	Luke 15:11-24	The Parable: The Younger Son
Oct. 4-5	Luke 15:25-32	The Parable: The Older Son
Oct. 11-12	Luke 15:11-32	The Parable: The Father
Oct. 18-19	Galatians 1:1-9	No Other Gospel: Distorted is Destroyed
Oct. 25-26	Galatians 1:10-24	No Other Gospel: Given by God
Nov. 1-2	Galatians 2:1-10	No Other Gospel: Received by the Apostles
Nov. 8-9	Galatians 2:11-16	No Other Gospel: Christ Above All Part 1
Nov. 15-16	Galatians 2:17-21	No Other Gospel: Christ Above All Part 2

SOME RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. [Constable's Notes on Galatians](#), by Dr Thomas L. Constable available on SonicLight.com (A free online commentary)
2. [Galatians for You](#), by Timothy Keller (An easy-to-read commentary)
3. [Galatians](#), by Thomas R. Schreiner, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. (A more technical commentary)
4. [The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming](#), by Henri Nouwen
5. [Prodigal God](#), by Timothy Keller



October 4 & 5, 2025 | The Older Son | Luke 15:25-32 | Joshua Wilhite, pastor

THE HEART OF THE SON

*Luke 15:25 "Now his older son was **in the field**, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' 28 But **he was angry and refused to go in....***

1. The older son WORKED around a father he didn't understand.

*Luke 15:28 ...His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet **you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.** 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'*

2. The older son viewed relationship with his father as TRANSACTIONAL.

a. His identity (how he saw himself) - DEPENDABLE Son

*Luke 15:29 ...Look, these many years I have **served** you...*

b. His outlook (how he related to others) - INSIDER

Luke 15:27 **Your brother** has come

Luke 15:30 But when **this son of yours** came...

Luke 15:32 ...for this **your brother** was dead, and is alive...

c. His ethic (his rule of life) - LEGALISM

Luke 15:29 ...**I never disobeyed** your command...

Matthew 15:1 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 2 "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." 3 He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?... 7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 8 " **'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;**

ASK YOURSELF:

- What do I think God wants from me?

THE HEART OF THE FATHER

Luke 15:28 ...His father came out and entreated him.

1. The father was watching and waiting for his son to COME HOME.

Luke 15:31 And he said to him, '**Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.** 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'

2. The father's heart was focused on CONNECTION, not conditions.
3. The older son was LOST even though he never LEFT.

ASK YOURSELF:

- Is my perspective on God being supported or challenged by His word?

THE CALL TO COME HOME

Luke 15:1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. 2 And **the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled**, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

Luke 15:29 ...and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. 30 And **the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled** at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31 And Jesus answered them, "**Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.** 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

1. Jesus doesn't play along with our delusion that we aren't that SINFUL.

2. Jesus FORGIVES our sin and helps us FORSAKE it.

Hosea 6:6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

3. "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to EARNING."
- Dallas Willard -

ASK THE LORD:

- Heavenly Father, thank you for your relentless love for us. Jesus, thank you for laying down your life and making a way for us to find life through You. Holy Spirit, thank you for the transformation you are working to accomplish in us. God, help us to stand firm in gospel freedom.

BIBLE TRANSLATION PROJECT

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