

# Sermon Outline

*In My Father's House*

Luke 15:11-32

May 6, 2007

We return to the parable of the Father and his Lost Sons. It is certainly easy to see our reflection in the life of the sons – the prodigal who seizes his inheritance and wastes all in licentious and riotous living, and the elder, self-righteous, unmerciful son, who refuses to acknowledge the repentance of the his younger brother and receive him. But can we see the Father's love for sinners – for both sons – in this passage, thanking God for his love towards us in Christ? If so, can we see that it is this kind of love to which we are likewise called? Or, to put it another way, are we the Church of the elder son or the Church of the Father, a place that watches for and welcomes the errant children of the family?

## **I. *The Parables of the Lost***

- A. There was a coin –
- B. There was a sheep

## **II. *The Joyful and Joyless Church***

## **III. *The Father's Unfailing Love***

- A. A Father Rich in Provision – LK. 15:17
- B. A Father Rich in Mercy – LK. 15:20
- C. A Father Rich in Grace – LK. 15:21-22
  - ? In mercy we are spared what we did deserve and by grace, we have bestowed on us what we didn't deserve.
  - ? The Father was "watching" for him
  - ? The Father "ran" toward him – "while he was still along way off."

*Is this the testimony of the Reformed Church? Is it the testimony of Redeemer Presbyterian Church? For whom do we search? For whom do we seek? For whom do we watch? For whom do we celebrate?*

*"There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety nine righteous persons who need no repentance." – LK. 15:7*

## **IV. *Taking Action***

- A. Giving Until it Overflows – "Where's the party?"
- B. Training Our Children to Believe – "I Love Jesus," "Oh really?"
- C. Watching for the Brothers and Sisters Coming Home
- D. RUNNING to the Brothers and Sisters Coming Home
  - ? You can stay in a relational cul-de-sac or welcome strangers to your party.
  - ? That is why we must –
    1. Strengthen our Parishes, adding small groups for fellowship and service
    2. Cultivate the welcome of the new – and get ready: the refugees are coming!