

# Being a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church in 2009: Come to Our Senses

Wylie United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – Sept 20, 2009

Luke 15:11-32

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and **he began to be in need**. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When **he came to his senses**, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and **go back to my father** and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But **while he was still a long way off**, his father saw him and **was filled with compassion** for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. 25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 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.'"

What is Jesus teaching us about being the Church?

Jesus is teaching us that...

## 1. **WE ARE BROKEN**

(v. 14) **he began to be in need**.

That's where it starts. Confessing that we are "in need".

Confessing that we are broken.

Confessing that God is Holy, and we are NOT.

We are broken and in need of a Savior.

1 Sam 2:2

There is **no one holy** like the LORD.

Rom 3:10

There is **no one righteous**, not even one.

Romans 3:23

**All have sinned** and **fall short** of the glory of God.

## 2. **WE MUST REPENT**

(v. 17) "he came to his senses" -- He REPENTED.

John the Baptist announced God's Kingdom with the word REPENT.

Jesus launched His Kingdom with the word REPENT.

Peter's first sermon admonished the people to REPENT. (Acts 2:38-39)

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

## 3. **WE MUST RETURN**

(v. 18) I will set out and **go back to my father**

We must return to our Heavenly Father

The prodigal recognized who he had sinned against.

And he recognized where he had to return.

And he must have remembered something about his Father that made him believe that he would be received with kindness.

## 4. **WE WILL BE RESTORED**

v. 20 **while he was still a long way off**, his father saw him and **was filled with compassion** for him.

Our Heavenly Father will greet us with an embrace, not with scolding.

He will have a celebration and restore us to His family.

The prodigal son returned home and His Father received him with open arms.

By his Father's grace, he was restored. He was made right.

## CONCLUSION:

### • **WE ARE BROKEN.**

God is Holy, and we are NOT. We are broken and in need of a Savior.

### • **WE MUST REPENT.**

Just like the Prodigal, we must "come to our senses".

We must recognize our brokenness and our need for a Savior.

### • **WE MUST RETURN TO THE FATHER.**

The prodigal had relationship with his Father—It was his sin that severed that.

### • **WE WILL BE RESTORED**

Jesus has made a way for us to return home.

He has made a way for us to be restored to our Heavenly Father.

### **\*\* THE CROSS \*\***

The Parable of the Prodigal Son illustrates to us The Cross.

Only these open arms are the arms of our Savior on a rugged cross.

Nailed open for us.

Colossians 2:13-15

When you were **dead in your sins** and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. **He forgave us all our sins**, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; **he took it away, nailing it to the cross**. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them by the cross**.