

Date: August 23, 2015

Title: Why we sing

Text: Luke 15:1-32

Theme: We often hold two completely contradictory expectations of how God will respond when we turn to Him for help. God would have us know that He rejoices over us.

Response: God Delights in You, We Sing

Benediction: Jude 1:24-25

I. Introduction

- A. Chatanooga shooter seeking forgiveness
- B. Today's teaching is going to build on the 1 John series. We have looked at what Authentic Faith looks like. Today we are going to take a quick look at the Heavenly Father's heart.
- C. This message is for the BRCC family specifically
 1. I am aware of the struggle that many members of this body have on an on-going bases
 - a) I know I am a sinner in need of great forgiveness
 - b) I know that God has forgiven me through Christ's atonement
 - c) I know how I have been treated by others after I've repented
 - d) I know how I have treated those who have repented to me
 - e) And, I still feel like God is disappointed with me because of my sin
 2. I hope that your spirits may be lifted through the words of Jesus so that we may stand confidently in our authentic faith

II. Background sketch

- A. vv 1-2

"Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.""

 1. Pharisaical expectation
 2. Partial mis-reading of the last parable (the prodigal is forgiven)
 - a) Two sets of people are outlined
 - (1) Sinners - who live sinful lives and deserve condemnation
 - (2) The Just - who live righteous lives and deserve recompense
 - b) The focus often given is to either the sinner, or to the self-righteousness of the "just"

III. The Text

- A. Luke 15 - The 3 parallel parables of the Lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son accentuate the overwhelming joy which are the holy and righteous response to the repentant sinner.
- B. Three stories building on each other: One point
 1. One Plot Line
 2. One main character
 - a) The shepherd/woman/father
 3. One crisis
 - a) A precious item is lost .01 sheep/.1 savings/.5 sons
 4. One response
 - a) A tremendous rescue/recovery mission is undertaken
 5. One outcome
 - a) The lost item is restored

- 6. One response
 - a) A party is thrown in celebration of the restoration
- C. Bringing it Home: "The Lost Sons" (pl)
 - 1. The son's struggle
 - a) "I don't want my father, I want his stuff to be my stuff."
 - (1) Younger demands his inheritance
 - (2) Older works as a slave to merit his inheritance
 - b) The dishonor
 - (1) Younger: I wish you were dead, I'm leaving
 - (2) Older: "Look! That son of YOUR'S", I'm not coming in
 - c) The False idea of family
 - (1) Younger: "I can be a slave to make this right"
 - (2) Older: "I've slaved for this, and you never give me anything!"
 - d) The Father's Heavenly response
 - (1) Younger: "You are my beloved son restored to me. Let's celebrate!"
 - (2) Older: "You already have everything, make my joy complete by celebrating with me"
 - (3) v. 2 the teachers were mumbling
 - (4) vv. 6-7 Sheperd throws a party
Angels celebrating in heaven
 - (5) vv. 9-10 The woman throws a party
Angels celebrating in Heaven

IV. Our Struggle

- A. We fear God's response
 - 1. We are intimately familiar with the responses we have received in our own lives
 - 2. We are intimately familiar with our own response
 - 3. We are intimately familiar with our sin
 - 4. We have two contradictory expectations:
 - a) God will forgive me (receive me back)
 - b) God will be disappointed with me (keep me at arms length)
- B. The question that Jesus is presenting is two-fold
 - 1. "Will you "come to your senses?"
 - 2. "Will you return so that I may throw a party for you?"
 - a) The confidence we have in coming to our Father
Hebrews 4 - The eternal rest yet to come. Work to enter the rest and not fall away through disobedience. Draw near with confidence because of Jesus our High Priest so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
 - b) Simply: we sing, because God sings joyfully over us.
 - (1) This stands in sharp contrast to the dread that most of us face when we are drawn to repentance. Even when we are certain that we will be accepted, we cower at the thought that we will remain under God's holy disapproval.
 - (2) "The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy.
The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.""
(Zephaniah 3:15, 17 NIV)