**Everyday Stories of Jesus – Lk. 15:24**

**Focal Truth: Repentant sinners produce heavenly praise because of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus was attending a meal with sinners & tax collectors

He was criticized for associating with sinners

He tells three stories revealing why he associated with sinners

**He associated with sinners to seek & save & celebrate with those who came to Him!**

**Could it be that this meal was a celebration for tax collectors & sinners who had repented & come to follow Jesus?**

The story of the lost son reveals the grace of the Lord Jesus that leads sinners to repent

**Observations**

1. **Heaven praises the merciful grace of the Jesus Christ toward unrepentant sinners**

**15:12 -16**

1. The son asks his father for his inheritance
2. The father gives him his share – *he divided his wealth between them*
3. God shows grace to all sinful people because God is good

He shows his goodness in the blessings of creation & created order

He gives life

He gives natural abilities to humans

He grants good things to all men

Lk. 6:35 – *He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men*

1. The son left his father & went to a place & lived in sinful wickedness

15:13 – 16

He left his father & rejected his love & care

He squandered his wealth & inheritance

He was poor without any money

He was without any help – He was alone in his terrible condition

**This is the picture of the lost sinner in his rebellion toward God**

1. **Heaven praises the patient grace of Jesus Christ toward repenting sinners**

**15:17 -19**

1. The son comes to his senses – He recognizes his terrible condition
2. The son remembers his father’s care & provisions
3. The son determines to go back & confess his rebellion to his father

*I will get up & go to my Father & say to him, father I have sinned against heaven & in your sight, I am no longer worthy to be called your son…* 17 -18

1. The son left the land of sinfulness & returned to his father

**This is the picture of the process of repenting of sins & God’s patience with sinners**

 He came to his senses – he woke up in his sinful bondage & misery

 He remembered his father’s goodness to him

 He came back & confess his sinfulness

**God is patient not wishing that any should perish but all come to eternal life!**

The savior is waiting to enter your heart, O how He wants to come in!

Rom 2:4 - *do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and patience knowing that the kindness of God leads to repentance*

1. **Heaven praises the saving grace of Jesus Christ toward repentant sinners**

**15:20 -24, 32**

1. The Father was watching for the son to return
2. The Father felt compassion for the son
3. The Father ran to him, hugged & kissed him & welcomed him home
4. The son confessed his sin to the Father
5. The Father forgave & honored him as his son
6. The father called a celebration for his returning son

**Here is a picture of saving grace through repentance & faith in Jesus Christ**

1. **The Father describes what happens to a sinner who repents**

*this son of mine was dead and has come to life again, he was lost and has been found, and they began to celebrate* - 22

1. **The Father describes why there is celebration in the son’s repentance**

*We had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found* -32

1. **God is the God of joy – the joy of God is in the grace of God in Jesus Christ**

**He is eternally happy with Himself**

**Matt. 23 – Jesus called it the “the joy of the Master”**

The Shepherd celebrated the finding of the lost sheep

The woman celebrated the finding of the lost coin

The father celebrated the repentance of the returning son

1. **Heaven is the place of eternal celebration & joyfulness**

Rev. 21:4 – *he will wipe away every tear from their eyes & there will be no longer any death, there will be no longer any mourning, or crying, or pain, the first things have passed away*

**Things to remember & do**

1. **God’s kindness provides the chance for repentance**
2. **The grace of the Lord Jesus accepts sinners who repent of their sinfulness**
3. **Heaven celebrates the grace of God that saves sinners through Jesus Christ**

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, riches, and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing

 ***this son of mine was dead and has come to life again, he was lost and has been found, and they began to celebrate***

***To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!***