

NOTES ON TODAY'S TOPIC.

Luke 15: 'He came to his senses.'

Coming to our senses means seeing reality

The Younger Son:

Step 1. The trigger: A severe famine (v14)

Step 2. The response to the trigger:

He is starving (v17)

He has done wrong (v18)

He remembers home (v17, 19)

Step 3. The insight on reality enabled by the response:

- the reality of being in need
- the reality of hurting God
- the reality of healing forgiveness

The Older Son:

Step 1. The trigger: Broken relationship & separated from the feast (v28)

Step 2. The response to the trigger:

He is angry and resents what is lost (v28-29)

He puts all the blame on his brother and father (v30)

He refuses to celebrate the value of restored family (v31-32)

Step 3. The insight on reality enabled by the response:

- the reality of being in need – blinded by materialism
- the reality of hurting God – blinded by moralism
- the reality of healing forgiveness – blinded by narcissism

+ a joyless mechanical obedience (v29 – 'I've been slaving for you')

+ a lack of assurance of the father's love (v29 – 'you never threw me a party')

+ a coldness and unforgiving spirit to younger brother types (v30 – 'this son of yours')

= a deep anger (v28)

Coming to your senses = repentance

'Repentance detonates the radical love of the father in the son's life' Timothy Keller

2Cor7:10 – godly sorrow liberates

Religion: I obey therefore I'm accepted. Grace: I'm accepted therefore I obey.

Questions for further thought in Life Groups this week.

Read Chapter 4 of *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller (Hodder & Stoughton 2009)

Questions for further thought can be found on pages 41-49 of *The Prodigal God Discussion Guide* by Timothy Keller (Zondervan, 2009)