

NOTES ON TODAY'S TOPIC.

Luke 15: 'He ran to his son and kissed him.'

3 Contrasting outcomes

- younger son: accepted, celebrated and problem paid for
- older son: resentful, outside and problem multiplying
- father: gives unquestioning, runs to resolve and joyfully celebrates

Why?

- younger son: transformed by forgiveness
- older son: hardened by unforgiveness
- father: compelled by compassion (younger son & older son)

Who?

- younger son: sinners and tax collectors – welcomed the message
- older son: pharisees – whitewashed tombs
- father: Jesus – filled with compassion

The Cost of forgiveness

- taking the material loss
- taking the reputational loss
- taking the consequential loss

The Call of forgiveness

- the material call: pay their debts – forgiveness is a personal sacrifice
- the reputational call: make the running – forgiveness is an act of will:
- The consequential call: forgiveness is a daily lifestyle: always protects (1 Cor 13)...

The Christ of forgiveness (The true older brother)

- willing to empty himself (material loss)
- willing to humble himself (reputational loss)
- willing to sacrifice himself (consequential loss)

So what?

- See the cost of your forgiveness
- See the joy of your forgiveness
- See the result of your forgiveness

Questions for further thought in Life Groups this week.

Read Chapter 5 of *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller (Hodder & Stoughton 2009)

Questions for further thought can be found on pages 51–48 of *The Prodigal God Discussion Guide* by Timothy Keller (Zondervan, 2009)