



Fugitive - Part 3 Sermon Discussion Notes

Opening Idea

Many times our eyes gradually get pulled away from the Lord toward other enticements that we think are more fulfilling and exciting. There is an old hymn that has this line in it: “prone to wander, Lord I fear it, prone to leave the God I love.” There is a constant pull away from God by other things. Just as the Israelites with Moses in the wilderness often fantasized about going back to Egypt, we too have worldly flashbacks of what it would be like to go back to sinful and worldly things.

Key Scriptures

Luke 15:1-2 (NIV)

1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)

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 fatted 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.'"*

Discussion Questions

1. What was the occasion for Jesus telling the parable of the prodigal son? What criticism did Jesus receive that made him tell this story?
2. Why do you think sinful people were drawn to Jesus? Why did they like to hang around him?
 - a. Do you believe unbelievers feel comfortable around modern Christians?
 - b. What kind of things can we do to be more attractive to sinful people as Christians?
 - c. One guy at a rock concert was seen wearing a t-shirt that said "Jesus save us from your followers." What do you think that t-shirt was trying to convey?
3. What are the other two parables told in this chapter? Do they convey the same big idea as the prodigal son story?
4. In the prodigal son story who does the younger son represent? Who does the elder brother represent? Who does the father represent?
5. What was the significance of this wayward boy having to go feed pigs?
6. What does the father running to meet the returning son convey?
7. The far country may convey what? Do we consider some people to be a long way from God and communion with him? How does the story communicate what God feels about these type people?

Concluding Thought

How many radically sinful people are hanging out with us? Are we strong enough in the Lord to be with them and have our influence and relationship with Christ make them want to be with us more and see what we are all about?