

Mar. 17 - Scripture: Luke 15: 11-32

Observation: Forgiveness or Bitterness - Jesus tells the story of a father and two sons. An oldest son that is devoted to his father and a younger son that wishes to take his "share" of the property, which is willingly given by the father. But the younger son quickly squanders it and drives himself down until he sees that he has sinned and wishes to return to his father as an "unworthy son". The response of his father is that of forgiveness, yet the response of his older brother is bitterness. But his father's response was due to his love for his son and the fact that he had been "lost and then again found". A true study of the grace of forgiving people, thereby providing joy that can be shared with others. The father passed this joy and understanding on to his oldest son to convince him that forgiveness is good and that the father still has two sons that he loves equally.

Application: A lesson on how easy it is to be resentful and the importance of forgiveness. It tells me that there is always room to forgive and if you fail to do so, you are missing a golden opportunity to experience the joy of forgiveness and share it with others.

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, please guide me and others to see your wisdom in forgiveness, to experience the joy and thanksgiving of helping others to see their failings and thereby bring them to your grace and glory. For these types of feelings will help all mankind to allow us all to feel good and prosper in your love. In Christ's name, AMEN.

Writer : Jack, married to a wonderful wife with three grown and successful sons that each now have their own families. Almost three years at Eastminster and many years as a Presbyterian Elder. Always seeking to do His work, in His name, desiring to remain strong in His wisdom and treat others as He would treat them.