



Sermon Series Notes

“Life, Death, & Resurrection” (Luke 15:1-24; Selected Scriptures)

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“...this brother of yours was dead and is alive again...”

Let me tell you something about yourself that some of you may not be aware of. You are a trichotomy: A division into three parts.

You are a spirit, have a soul, and live in a body.

Heb.12:9...We have all had human fathers who disciplined us...How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

Talking with an elderly lady the other week at our church café, she said she inwardly did not feel old, and I said that’s because our spirits don’t age.

Eccl.3:11...he has also set eternity in the hearts of men.

We are spirit beings having a human experience.

We are spirits, but we also have a soul. There is some debate over what exactly the soul consists of. Some say the soul is the seat of our emotions. I believe the soul is connected to what we call the heart, not the blood pumping organ that keeps our bodies alive, but something else deep inside us, the essence of who we are as a person.

Ill John 2...I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

Mark 8:36 What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses (damages) his soul?

Finally, the part of us that we are all perhaps most familiar with is our body. See “In His Image.”

Psalms 139:14...I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

While the above statement from Psalm 139 is true, we have been marred (stained, blemished) as human beings.

I Thess.5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What does sanctify mean?

1998 Oxford Dictionary = Holiness of life; sacredness.

American Dictionary of the English Language, Noah Webster 1828 = To cleanse, purify, or make holy; To cleanse from corruption; to purify from sin.

Note from Noah Webster “Sanctifying.”

Romans 5:12...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned...

No one ever had to teach us to sin, we sin naturally, because we are born sinners.

Psalms 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

We actually see this in the conception of twin brothers Jacob and Esau.

- Gen.25:22 The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “What’s happening to me?”...When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first...Esau. After this, his brother came out, grasping Esau’s heel...

Because we have all sinned, we all have to face death.

Sin dwells in the members of our bodies (see Rom.7:23-25). This is why we will one day die physically. It is also why a Christian still struggles with sin.

Did you know that death involves more than a cessation of our physical bodies? Remember, we are a trichotomy.

Gen.2:17 (Adam and Eve) ...for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Before Adam and Eve died physically they died spiritually.

Matthew 23:27 Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.

Revelation 3:1 (To church of Sardis)...I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

I Tim.5:6...the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.

Matthew 8:21 Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.” This refers to those who have not been sanctified through faith in Christ.

Romans 8:5-8; This takes us back to Hebrews 12:9 ...We have all had human fathers who disciplined us...How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

Back to our story (Luke 15). This is a parable. A parable is a story meant to help us understand truth. The truth this parable communicates is that of a son who rebels and goes off on his own. But he later comes to his senses, goes back to his father, humbled, broken, feeling so unworthy that he is willing to become a hired servant.

Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...

Sheep are stupid animals, they wander off so easily!

My testimony

Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

II Cor.5:21 God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Eph.2:1-8; John 3:16

Col.2:13-14 When you were dead in your sins...God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

John 5:24 I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

INVITATION