

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 and Luke 15 *Children's Sermon*
Psalms: 400:1, 3, 5 – 123:1 – 222:1-5 – 140:1, 2 – 426:1, 3

God's Message of Grace to the Disobedient

I. God welcomes disobedient boys and girls (vs. 1-2)

- A. Publicans and sinners are like children who did naughty and bad things
- B. Yet as the disobedient people were coming to Jesus: *He welcomed them!*
1. He sat down and share meal
 - a. He did not approve of the disobedient things they did
 - b. But He did not reject or avoid them because of wrong done
- C. What is God telling us about Himself in these verses?
1. I am not cold-hearted and arrogant against those who failed

II. God rejoices when disobedient children return to Him.

- A. Compare the *Jewish church leaders* and *Jesus*: what differences?
- B. What does Jesus tell us about God in this?
1. that we do not need to fear rejection when we return to Him
 2. that He is *more* ready to come and find us/receive us, that we are ready to return to Him

III. God will restore us to the best if we return to Him

- A. Jesus really made that clear in story about 'younger son'
1. this young man did something terribly hurtful to his father: 12-13
 - a. what this boy did to his father, we all did to God in Paradise
 2. He finally woke up from his dream
 - a. vs. 14-17: his dream ended with *permanent loss, regret, shame*

b. vs. 18-19: he made a good but hard choice though without hope

3. Upon coming home, he must have thought to be dreaming again

a. v. 20-24: *his father welcomed him home as if he was the best boy*

B. The purpose of Luke 15: Jesus' message of encouragement to return

1. God reminds: I will not treat you like the older brother!

2. Jesus preached: even if you failed deeply, you are still valuable!

Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts:
And let him return unto the LORD,
And He **will have mercy upon him;**

And to our God, for **He will abundantly pardon.**

For my thoughts [*about forgiving*] are not your thoughts,
Neither are your ways [*of receiving those who offended you*] my ways,
saith the LORD.

Is. 55:7-8