



1



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3

*A spiritual **self audit** as we read the Parable of the Prodigal Son.*

Signs that we are in the Prodigal's "distant land" - **angry, anxious, alone, agnostic / apathetic**

Luke 15 The older brother's response

"28 But he became **angry** and was **not willing to go in**; and his father came out and *began* pleading with him. 29 But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years **I have** been serving you and **I have** never neglected a command of yours; and *yet* **you have never given me** a young goat, so that **I might** celebrate with my friends; 30 but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'"

Signs that we are living in the father's house (but not his heart) - **angry, anxious, alone, agnostic / apathetic**

4

Note how the older son behaved.

1. He kept a record of his **virtuous behavior**.
2. He refused to be **identified with** his brother "this son of yours" & "this brother of yours".
3. He was **angry** at the "injustice" to himself.
4. He felt "left out" (**alone**) by his own choice.
5. He lived in the father's house, **not his heart**.
6. He was committed to optics of holiness, and virtue, but had **no sense of the father's home (wisdom, heart, and grace)**.

5

Jesus' testimony

Mark 2:22

"And **no one puts new wine into old wineskins**. If he does, the wine will burst the skins — and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

John 5

"39 You search the **Scriptures**, because **you think that in them you have eternal life**; and it is **these that bear witness of Me**; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life."

Paul's explanation

Romans 10

"2 For I testify about them (**Jews**) that they have a **zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge**. 3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes."

6

The **promise** made to Abraham was the hope of Israel.

- **Palestinian Cov.**
The land of Palestine would be home for God's people.
- **Davidic Cov.**
Messiah would rule over all the earth.
- **Mosaic Cov.**
The Law of Moses would define and guide God's people.

7

The Law as the central focus of Israel's theology, **notarized Israel's identity** as God's chosen people.

Catholicism and some Protestants (Covenant theology) hold to a close relationship between Law and Grace.

8

How does the N.T. shed light on these covenants?

1. **ISRAEL**
The covenants are each made with Israel, but what constitutes "true Israel"?
2. **PROMISE**
The covenants offer a Messianic hope, but is it **material or spiritual**?
3. **LAW**
Does the O.C. give us assurance or **convict us that we need the Cross**?
4. **CHRIST**
Does he free us from death and assure us of abundant life?

9

What did Jesus do with the Law?

He clarified its standard "You have heard it said, but I say . . ." He raised the bar so that all would be humbled.	He confirmed its sanctity "I have not come to destroy but to fulfill." All that it demanded was fulfilled by Him.	He closed its sphere "abolishing in His flesh the enmity" He set us free from the Law's Covenant with its curse.
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10

We are to read the Bible as an unfolding revelation.

Old Testament **Gospels** **Epistles** Our culture

11

The Gospel **was a mystery** until revealed to Paul.

Ephesians 3:3-5

"that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery,...which **in other generations was not made known** to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;"

Easter

12



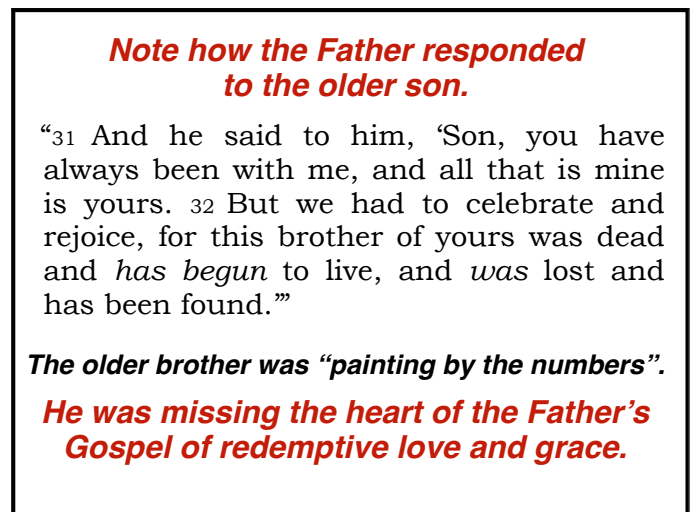
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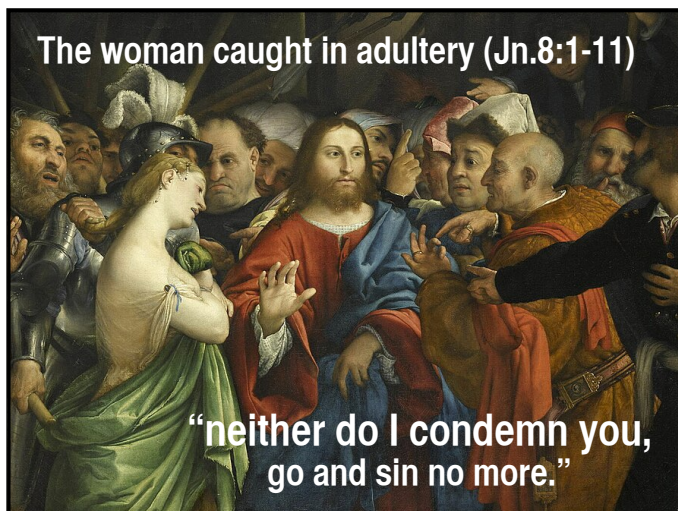
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19

Water baptism is the positional washing of believers.

“... baptism now saves you, not the washing of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 3:21



20

Luke 15

“1 Now all the **tax-gatherers and the sinners** were coming near Him to listen to Him. 2 And both the **Pharisees** and the **scribes** began to grumble, saying,

“This man receives sinners and eats with them.” 3 And He told them this (these) parable(s), ...”

Before we claim to be a disciple of Jesus we have to have ears to hear the point and power of the N.C. as **the Gospel of the cross.**

21

John 3

“16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For **God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.**”

The Law is God's tool before the cross
and Satan's tool after.

22

A healthy local church should take a lesson from the older brother and model its covenantal culture after the N.C. not the O.C.

- Don't “paint by the numbers” **(rule) centered.**
- Motivate **through love and trust, not force and fear.**
- Punctuate doctrine **with verbs from the heart more than nouns and optics.**
- Respect **human dignity more than depravity.**
- Consequences = **crucifixion or discipleship**

23

Decision Making



24