



14 The Unguarded Heart

14 DAYS | WEEK 1 | DAVE D'ANGELO

Luke 15: 25-32

Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

The older brother had proximity to the father with no intimacy → Something was off with his life.

Proverbs 4:23 MSG

Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that's where life starts.

When something is off in your life, something is most likely present in your heart that shouldn't be.

Characteristics of the older brother:

- Passive aggressive
- Stubborn
- Kept receipts
- Used his words to hurt people

Question: Do I share any of these older brother characteristics?

Luke 6:45

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

UNS IN THE HEART OF THE OLDER BROTHER

1. Misunderstood birthright

- a. Mindset of a servant rather than a son

| SERVANTS | SONS |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Driven by <i>duty</i> | Driven by <i>honor</i> |
| Motivated by <i>rules</i> | Motivated by <i>relationship</i> |
| Fueled by <i>fear of failing</i> | Fueled by <i>joy of trying</i> |
| Focused on <i>doing</i> | Focused on <i>being</i> |
| Consumed with the <i>score</i> | Consumed with <i>grace</i> |
| See the Father as <i>master</i> | See the Father as <i>father</i> |

Question: Do I believe spiritual performance determines my spiritual proximity?

→ Misunderstood birthright is a yoke of slavery.

2. Unforgiveness and bitterness

- a. Blocks us from seeing the goodness God has given to us because we're focused on the offense and the one who hurt us
- b. Ruins our life while we hope it ruins theirs
- c. When unforgiveness is present, relationships are scarce

Matthew 5:23-24

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Mark 11:25

And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Unforgiveness horizontally has a negative impact on our relationship vertically.

→ Unforgiveness is a yoke of slavery and causes us to miss out on the Father.

3. Unconfessed and unrepentant sin

- a. Sin always divides, separates, and wreaks havoc.
- b. Sin is an attempt to meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way.
- c. Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.
- d. Sin is a dulling and eventual loss of our senses.
 - i. When our senses are dulled we miss the Father.

→ Sin doesn't change how God sees us. Sin changes how we think God sees us.

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Prayer is about communing with the Father, asking “What’s in my heart that shouldn’t be?”

Ezekiel 36:26

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Question: Do I misunderstand my birthright?

Question: Have I been more focused on duty, rules, and the score than the fact that I’m a son/daughter?

Question: Is there anyone I’m holding back forgiveness from?

Question: Is there any unconfessed, unrepented sin that I’m trying to hide?

