

SEE IT

Luke 15:11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. ¹²The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. ¹³"A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.

OBEY IT

Based on the parable of the prodigal son, let's look at three things the **older brother did not do**:

1. He did not stop his brother from leaving.

Nowhere in the story do you see the younger brother pleading/talking/interceding with his younger sibling to get him to stay. He never calls him brother. Not once. He calls him names, he calls him "your son" but he never calls him brother. Instead let's say: you may end up leaving, but you are someone I am willing to fight for.

2. He did not search for him while he was gone.

It is interesting that the older brother was pretty specific about the lifestyle that his brother was leading, which begs the question: How did he know? It's so much easier to judge from afar, than it is to get in the pig pen and rescue the lost. Let's remember that lost people matter to God and that it's pretty hard to embrace someone you are pointing at.

3. He did not rejoice when he came back.

Here is the clincher. The bible says that the older, holier brother "came near" to the house. Interesting terminology. What he did not realize is that he too was far from the house. He too needed grace. He needed to understand that maybe he wasn't *as bad*, but he was *bad enough*.

"These who have erred need pity, they need help, they need sympathy. They suffer in their feelings and are frequently desponding and discouraged. Above everything else, they need free forgiveness." (3Tp.128)

SHARE IT

1. Collect clothes to take to a local shelter.
2. Stop to have a conversation with a homeless person.
3. Give an inspiring book to a struggling friend.

My Prayer Today:

Father, help me fight for them, search for them and rejoice with them. Amen.

My Thoughts _____

SEE IT

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

OBEY IT

Today's devotional thought is intentionally written for leaders. The ones that make programs run. We don't need any "*just because programs*". Just because programs are those we do "*just because*" with no **missional component**. Remember these three things:

1. Have a compelling vision to reach the lost.

You want to reach the city? What does that mean? Did you know that reaching the city means that sinners from said city will be coming to YOUR church, sitting next to YOUR daughter, and going to YOUR church picnic with their earrings, cigarette smell (not Marlboro, either) and (gasp) real chicken? The truth is that many times "we are afraid of the people we claim we want to reach. ¹ We can't say: "we want to grow, but we don't want to do much."

2. Have the guts to lead in your sphere of influence.

If this is a God given vision, you must proceed. Make sure you are not changing doctrine, biblical principles, and the 10 commandments. Fierce, determined, hurtful opposition is a given. The devil hates evangelism. You will see how much when you become missional.

3. Bring alignment to the vision.

There can't be competing visions. Stay away from FUBU church. For us, by us, and the end of the day, it's just us. That's not what God had in mind when he created the church and launched it. Remember who we are doing it for: Jesus. Them. Us. In that order.

SHARE IT

1. Pay for the person behind you at the drive-thru.
2. Buy dessert for someone eating out alone
3. Pick up the tab for a random table at a restaurant.

My Prayer Today:

Father, help me grasp your passion to reach our community with your truth and love. Help me do what furthers your plan to seek and save. Amen.

My Thoughts _____

¹Williams, Zach (2013-12-04). Transitioning the Church: Leading the Established Church to Reach the Unchurched (Kindle Location 765). Rainer Publishing. Kindle Edition.