

Sunday, July 22, 2018
Union Baptist Church, Wilmington
Dr. LaBarron McAdoo, Sr.
Series:
Sermon: A Portrait of Grace

- **Luke 15:11-22** - (KJV) 11 And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

What does grace look like?

If you want to look at what real grace looks like, look at me.

The principles of grace. We discovered that we have a common disease called depravity- hard-wired to like the ungodly. We are here despite ourselves. God has looked beyond our faults.

Portrait of Grace - The Purpose for the portrait. There are 3 parabolic pictures in Luke 15. 1 & 2
- The Problem that gave birth to the parable is that we might not know what grace look like. When we don't know what real grace look like, we may call potential disciples despicable people. He was painting a picture to those folks that were church folks that forgot that they had a shady past. The passage has 3 characters. There is a certain man and two sons. The main character is the man. None of us are the character of the father, we are all one of the sons. The younger son. Did the following:

1. What he did:
 1. He loaded up and left - In us is already a divine deposit. We have been uploaded with God's grace. If there is any space between God and us, it is because we have left. Everything we got is because God divided His stuff and divided what was His and given it to us. He got his stuff and took it to a foreign country. You can acquire it but doesn't mean you can keep it.

2. He lived it up. - He lived it up impressing people. The same people he used all of his possessions on left him when he did not have anything left.
 3. He lost it all. He went from having to needing, from lending to begging. No man gave him. The same folks he dissed God for were not there for him. The circle only lasted as long as his currency.
 4. He learned in lost territory. When he came to himself, he discovered the problem was him. You must understand why you are in your position.
2. What he deserved v. 19 - 20 - No longer worthy to be called your son. The privilege of being called to Him. We ought to at least admit we are not worthy to be called his son. You ought to be glad you let me in the house. Real worship begins when you realize that you are not worthy and are willing to come in on a lower stage. God allows the unworthy to come into His presence.
 3. What he discovered - He is coming back together and when he was a great way off, the father was looking all the time. He father saw him and had compassion's for him.
 1. He sees him. He watches over him.
 2. He has compassion which is the working word of love. He loves him.
 3. He runs to meet him. There is urgency here. He meets you on our way back and covers you. He embraces him.

He used to be lost but now he is found. He used to be blind, but now he sees.