The Next Day

Roger Shouse · Luke 15:11–32

INTRODUCTION

- Part of our journey with the Lord and part of our understanding of how to walk with the Lord successfully is dealing with the concept of the next day.
- But the real test came the next day. What happens when the feast is eaten, the music stops, no one is dancing, and everyone's gone home?
- Even though he came home, he was still under his father's authority.

1 He Had a Past to Live With

Philippians 3:13

- Even though you're forgiven, there remains consequences.
- Saying you're sorry doesn't bring the money back. There are consequences.
- David committed sin with Bathsheba. God forgave him, but a child was born.
- Paul says I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet but one thing I do forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.
- One of the hardest things of all is to forgive yourself.
- If God has forgiven you need to forgive yourself.

2 He Had to Learn His New Identity

2 Corinthians 6:18

- He came home saying, "Make me a servant." But the father said, "No, you are a son."
- Instead of a servant, he was a son. He was dead, but now he was alive.
- I will be a father to you and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.
- We're talking about relationship. You are a daughter of heaven. That's how God sees us.

3 He Had to Begin Building New Habits

Colossians 3:5–14; 1 Corinthians 13:4–8; 2 Peter 2:20–22

- Coming home is a moment. Staying home is a lifestyle.
- If he's going to make any changes, he has to begin building new habits.
- The first thing he had to change, he had to change the way he thought.
- Paul says, "Consider it dead. It's over. No more."
- Secondly, he had to change his behavior because his behavior wasn't right either.
- What kept him home was not the robe, was not the food, was not the ring, but it was the father.

4 He Had to Face Old Battles Once Again

- His older brother was angry and unforgiving, refused to acknowledge the relationship.
- Not everyone you meet is going to be as forgiving as God is.
- How many people out there would love to come back in? They're not fearing God. They're fearing us.
- You got to remain humble. And what you have to do is you got to stay patient.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **You never been baptized. That's where it starts. Got to come home to God.**

MY NOTES