



February 11, 2023
When God Ran
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus' Friendliness with Singled-Out Sinners

Pharisees and Scribes grumbled: **15:2**

Hard to please these boys: see **Matthew 9:18-19**

Jesus' clear priorities: leaves the ninety nine: **15:3**

Came to call who? Who needs the physician? **Matthew 9:12-13**

Reaction One: *feeling left out*: "more joy in heaven over them than me": **15:7**

"You are always with Me and all I have is yours": **15:31**

Reaction Two: *the worst behavior in the class consumes the teacher's attention*

Notice these were ones who were *drawing near to hear*: **15:1, 15:20**

The two criminals beside Jesus as a case study: **Luke 23:39-43**

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble: **James 4:6-10**

Jesus doesn't need people to get right before coming to Him

But wants people to come to Him who want to get right

Mercy over sacrifice: **Matthew 9:13 (rooted in Hosea 6:6)**

This approach creates a messy "temporary tension zone"

The Prodigal Story as a Typical Template

Background for this story that highlights the "tension zone": see **Deuteronomy 21:18-21**

The son's offense/affront and the Father's response: **15:11-12**

Built in consequences as "judgment": **15:14-16**

When he *came to himself*: **15:17**

The new attitude: humbled, meek, needy: **15:18-19**

The Father's response: saw, felt compassion, ran, embraced, kissed: **15:20**

The lavish party with the fatted calf: **15:23-24**

Corresponding to our one little step home, God's giant step in return

To whom shall we throw open wide our arms? Prioritize the humble hungry

Boundaries around the critic, the judge, manipulator, abuser, libertarian

Our prayer for our lost and wandering friends: *come to themselves in order to take the small step*