

LIFE AFTER THE PARTY
Life Stories – Part 7
June 21, 2009

God places a high premium on _____

“The Parable of the Lost Son”

(Luke 15:11-24)

Luke 15:20b (NIV) *“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”*

Luke 15:22-24 (NIV) *“Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”*

The Kingdom Principle of this parable:

God _____ when someone who is living outside His kingdom decides that they WANT to start living inside of it.

Genesis 33:4 (NIV) *“But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.”*

Genesis 33:10 (NIV) *“For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably.”*

We become like the “face of God”

When we _____

our brothers and sisters decision to return home.

But entrance into the Kingdom of God is not the end of the story...

“The Parable of the Two Sons”

(Matthew 21:28-32)

Matthew 21:28-31a (NIV) *“There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. **“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”**”*

The Kingdom Principle of the parable:

Kingdom living requires _____.

I John 2:3-4 (NIV) *“We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands. The man who says, ‘I know Him,’ but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”*

“Vineyard” = People

I Corinthians 3:6-7,9 (NIV) *“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow...For we are God's fellow workers; **you are God's field....**”*

God's will for your life = “_____ today, in the vineyard.”

John 15:9-14 *“As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love...**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.** Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command.”*

We are not “Christian” just because we’ve entered into His house. That’s just the beginning.

We are “Christian” – disciples of Christ – when we work at being obedient to His way of living.