

Speaker: Stephen Whitmore  
Date: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012  
Subject: Two men

**Reading: Luke 15:11-32.**

Two men in a family, an older and a younger son. The younger son wasted his portion in riotous living. When he comes to his senses he realises what he has done, he confesses his sin “[I have sinned against heaven](#)” and returns home.

The older son stayed by the father, when his father spoke to him he claimed to have done nothing wrong. There was no difference in the heart of the boys but younger one put it into action. The older wanted the same as the younger had but he tried to hide his desires.

Paul points out that no one could point a finger at his life. He said, “[Touching righteousness in law](#)” (Phil 3:6). Man could see everything as they expected until the command came “[Thou shalt not covet](#)” (Rom 7:7) and Saul felt God speak to him.

Mat 5:20-32 - The Scribes and Pharisees lived an outwardly good life yet their heart was not right.

“[Thou shalt not commit adultery](#)”. We may not do the action but if we think of it in our heart it is as bad. “[Thou shalt not steal](#)” But if you covet you have committed sin inwardly. Outwardly people can't point the finger but God looks on the heart (1Sam 16:7). All things are open and naked before God.

At the end, the older son is outside where the younger is inside receiving all the father could give because he came back in repentance and faith.

The older son is outside the house, he never went far but he never went in.

How ever far we have gone, there is a Father in heaven with an open door waiting to welcome us home.

We must come back in repentance, confessing our sin.

**Reading: Luke 18:9-14**

Two men in religious devotion, they both go up into the temple to pray. The Pharisee boasted of all he was and all he did. He lived a life that was for the eyes of men. Despite his outward devotion all was for himself.

Eph 2:8-9 – Works will never satisfy God.

The other entered the outer temple without so much as lifting his eyes, crying “[God be merciful to me a sinner](#)”. He could ask God to forgive because God had made an answer for sin at the place called Calvary. There the Lord Jesus Christ suffered in our place.

Rom 3:24-25 “[Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: <sup>25</sup> Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood](#)” It is not my efforts but what Christ has done.

“[They hated me without a cause](#)”. At Calvary evil men took the Son of God, one who had only done

good. At the cross a Holy God made His Son pay for our sin. Man's hatred had no cause but God used this to provide a basis whereby He could justify without cause.

**Reading: Luke 23:39-43**

Two crucified alongside the Lord Jesus. Picturing the whole of humanity.

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

The two here justly received condemnation for their sin.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23).

The One on the centre cross had gone willingly for He knew it was the only way sin could be forgiven.

One went unwillingly but with no sign of remorse, right to the end he mocked the Lord Jesus.

You can't chose your time. “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts”(Heb 3:7,8). You may think there will be another chance but it may not come.

The other bowed to the Saviour and instead of mocking and cursing, he called on the Saviour. “This man hath done nothing amiss”, “Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom” and heard the Saviour reply “Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise”.

The moment you call on the Saviour He answers that call. If you don't respond to His call, you may never hear that call again.

Rather than seeing Him as Saviour, you may hear Him say “Depart from me” (Matt 25:41).

**Reading: Luke 16:22-23,:26**

Rich man and beggar Lazarus.

One moment there is a rich man in a house and the beggar at the door. Moments later there was a beggar in heaven and a rich man in torment.

Whatever you have in this life counts for nothing once you go into eternity.

Round the city, none would have known the name of the beggar but his name was in heaven.

“ But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12)

Where will you spend eternity?