

FOUR ATTITUDES OR THE PRODIGAL SON

Luke 15:11-32

Dale Buckley

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Individual's complete life is governed by his attitudes.
- B. Must develop proper attitudes to motivate proper actions.
- C. Factors which determine attitudes:
 - 1. Environment and associations
 - 2. Teachings
- D. Now let us consider these attitudes and see the cause and effect of each, then determine to possess the proper attitude toward our brother.

DISCUSSION:

I. Attitude of resentment and self-will.

- A. Had been subject to his father long enough.
- B. Desired now to become independent.
 - 1. Had become a stranger at home.
 - 2. Desired to make new contacts.
- C. Desired goods that belonged to him.
- D. Son then learns law of sowing and reaping. Gal. 6:7,8
 - 1. Cast seed of resentment and riotous living.
 - 2. Price he paid was:
 - a. Earthly wealth.
 - b. Good reputation.
 - c. Self-respect.
 - 3. Reaped humiliation, shame, hunger.

II. Attitude of humility and repentance.

- A. Came to himself.
 - 1. To come to God one must come to self.
 - 2. Realized how well off even servant at home was.
- B. Ashamed of his previous attitude and life.
 - 1. Led him to determine to go back.
 - 2. Desired to confess his sin, not because of necessity; pride gone.
 - 3. Willing now to serve, not be a son.

III. Attitude of love and mercy.

- A. Father saw his son a great way off.
 - 1. Could not force son to stay at home.
 - 2. Father had been lonesome, often looking down road for his return.
- B. Love demanded no account of previous actions of the son.
 - 1. Concerned only in his return.

- 2. Seemingly ignores confession.
- C. Shows his love by richest blessings: ring, best robe, shoes, calf, party.

IV. Attitude of self-righteousness and jealousy.

- A. Most dangerous of all sins because harder to make one realize
- B. Angry because father gave son party what would my attitude be?
- C. Boasted of his goodness
 - 1. Served thee many years
 - 2. Didn't transgress thy commandments
 - 3. So good he deserved all favors
- D. Hatred refused to allow the older to call the younger his brother
- E. No record of his changing attitude.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let us remember our attitudes determine our actions. Realizing this, let us cultivate the proper attitudes so that our lives will go in the direction of heaven.
- B. If your attitude of resentment and self-will has been changed to humility and repentance, you can come to Christ. Though you be a prodigal, you can be a loving son. See Him standing at the doorway and "come home" while we stand and sing.