
Relational impact and the problem of loneliness

Luke 15:1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees ... muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Luke 15:28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

Luke 15:31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Key: page 1: Belovedness. Brokenness. Substituting; failure; inevitable; Hiding; illegitimate; others

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Brokenness

Facing Down the Ugly “I”

Re-routing: God’s Backroads to Joy —part 3

June 23, 2024

What is Joy?

Definition #1 of joy: Certainty .

Definition #2 of joy: Hunger .

Definition #3: Belovedness .

Re-routing:

Route to Joy #1: Shattered dreams.

Route to Joy #2: Unmet longings

Route to Joy #3: Brokenness.

Reasons for loneliness:

Loneliness #1: Substituting legitimate connection for what should be our #1 connection with God.

Loneliness #2: Our failure to live up to God’s standard of loving others.

Loneliness #3: The inevitable outcome of living in a fallen world.

Loneliness #4: Hiding the real “I” from others.

Loneliness #5: Chasing illegitimate connection

Loneliness #6: When others fail to connect well with me.

“1st thing love”

Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

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“2nd thing loves”

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

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Brokenness and Beloved

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Psalm 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalm 51:8 Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

■ *¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.* ■

¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee.

■ *¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance.* ■

¹⁵ O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*¹⁶ For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased. ¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a **broken spirit**; a **broken and contrite heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Brokenness_____Belovedness

Brokenness _____ Belovedness

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