



Lives that make
a difference

Paul, the all-in-one version

Step 1: WHO? So he said, “**Who** are you, Lord?” He replied, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting! (v5)

Step 2: WHAT? So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” But stand up and enter the city and you will be told **what** you must do.” (v6)

Step 3: HOW? So Ananias departed and entered the house, placed his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came here, has sent me so that you may see again and **be filled with the Holy Spirit.**” Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he could see again. He got up and **was baptized**, and after taking some food, his strength returned. (v17)

Step 4: **THE END?**

“Paul lived there two whole years in his own rented quarters and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with complete boldness and without restriction.”

(ACTS 28:30-31)

Peter, the multi-stage version.

Step 1: WHO? Mark 8:29 “He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered Him, ‘You are the Christ.’”

Step 2: WHAT? JOHN 21:15-17. “‘Feed my lambs...’ ‘Shepherd My sheep’... ‘Feed My sheep’”

STEP 3: HOW? ACTS 2:4. “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.”

Step 4: THE END? “It is reserved in heaven for you, who by God’s power are protected through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:4-5)

LUKE 15: THE TWO BROTHERS

The father has two sons, both tragic in their own way.

One is lost in loose living, selfishness and rebellion, to the point where he brings shame and humiliation on his father and family.

Younger son represents the lost, not yet come to Christ

The other is also lost, not in wild living but in pride, anger and self-righteousness. His resentment mirrors the attitude of the Pharisees. We are invited to consider with which of the sons we most identify.

Older son Christian who has not yet taken Jesus as Lord.

THE YOUNGER SON. PART ONE. SIN

Jewish families living in small villages were tightly-knit communities where people knew one another well. So when something like this happened, word travelled fast. Had he reached home after failing so badly, the village elders would have held a “ceremony of shame” known in Hebrew as ‘kezazah’. They'd have taken a clay pitcher and smashed it on the ground in front of him, meaning his ties with the community were broken and he was no longer welcome.

His request, in its socio-historical context, was tantamount to declaring that he wished his father dead.

THE YOUNGER SON. PART ONE. REPENTANCE

LUKE 15:21 “Then his son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”

LUKE 15:17 “But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father's hired workers have food enough to spare, but here I am dying from hunger!’”

DAD'S PLACE IS THE BEST PLACE TO BE, MUCH BETTER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE.

THE YOUNGER SON. THE SCANDAL

The scandal of the story, however, is the action of the father. The father is undignified in his vulnerable love. He actively waits and watches for the return of his lost son. When he sees him on the horizon, he runs to him, which a dignified father should never do.

Even more than that, he kisses him passionately and clothes him finely.

Each of the gifts signifies position and acceptance - the long robe of distinction, a signet ring of authority and sandals of sonship (slaves went barefoot).

THE YOUNGER SON: A SUMMARY

John 14:6: **Jesus replied, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**

Three simple statements:

- **I) The Father is the goal. Personal relationship With God as Father**
- **II) Jesus is the way**
- **III) There is no other. It is exclusive. The cross makes**

THE OLDER SON: what is the problem?

i) Luke 15:25. “Now his older son was in the field. As he came and approached the house...”

Never left home, the good boy.

ii) V31. “Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything that belongs to me is yours.’”

iii) V28. “But the older son became angry and refused to go in.”

He was physically in Dad’s house, not spiritually.

THE OLDER SON: what is the problem?

"Yet you *never gave me* even a goat so that I could *celebrate with my friends!*"

i) He did not really know his father though he lived in the same house.

ii) His home was not with his father but with his friends.

THE OLDER SON: what is the answer?

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” (John 21:15)

2 Timothy 1:12

NET: “Because of this, in fact, I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, because I know the One in whom my faith is set and I am convinced that He is able to protect what has been entrusted to me until that day.”

NKJV: “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

Unanswered questions.

- **What happened after the welcome home party:**
- **Was the prodigal genuinely repentant or did he relapse?**
- **Was he permanently grateful for his home?**
- **How did he get on with the older brother?**
- **Did the older brother go on sulking?**

There is no v33! It is our question and has to be written in our lives

- **2 Cor 7:1 “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”**
- **Isa 66:2 “I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word.”**