

Journey – Week 4

Open Arms of God

October 24 & 25, 2009

Pastor Steve Davidson

Today's Text is James 1:2-18 (NIV) & Luke 15:1-32 (NIV)

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.
James 1:12

TWO WAYS TO MISS GOD'S OPEN ARMS *Luke 15:1-32*

1. Younger Brother – by Breaking His Rules (v. 12-24)

2. Elder Brother – by Keeping God's Rules (v. 25-32)

SIGNS OF ELDER BROTHER ALIENATION

➤ Angry Superiority

The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. (v. 28)

➤ Joyless Compliance

But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders... (v. 29a)

➤ Insecure of Love

...Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. (v. 29b)

➤ Can't Rejoice with Others

But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!
(v. 30)

INVITATION TO GOD'S OPEN ARMS

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 15:20b)

Luke 15:28b

James 1:12b