THE HIRED SERVANT

Scripture: Luke 15:11-17, 19

Introduction

Ours is a time when men try to rid themselves of responsibility. The less responsibility they have the happier they are.

The greatest dividends are paid to those who occupy places of responsibility. The son could have become a hired servant, but the father reinstated his place as a son.

I. The abdication

A. The selfish demand

> I want my share of your estate now instead of waiting until you die.
> Living Gospels Luke 15:12

B. The walk on the wild side

> A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings, and took a trip to a distant land, and there wasted all his money on parties and prostitutes.
> Living Gospels Luke 15:13

1. Loaded everything he owned into his Volkswagen van
2. Headed for Haight-Asbury

C. Bank roll is exhausted

D. He begins to starve

1. Hires out to local farmer
2. Feeds swine
3. Nothing to eat

> But even so, the boy became so hungry he would gladly have eaten the pods he was feeding to the swine. And no one gave him anything.
> Living Gospels Luke 15:14

II. The realization

> At home, even the hired men have food enough and to spare, and here I am, dying of hunger!
>
> Luke 15:17

A. His resolution
   1. I will go home
   2. I'll become a hired hand
      a. Won't have any part in family life
      b. Wont share in operation of farm
      c. At least will be at home

B. Heading home

III. The restoration

A. Seen by the Father a long way off
   1. Father recognized his gait
   2. Father ran to meet him

B. Son's confession

> Father, I have sinned against heaven and you, and am not worthy of being called your son...
>
> Luke 15:21

   1. Never got a chance to ask for a job
   2. Restored to fellowship with his father

IV. Why God does not want you as a hired servant

A. There is a surplus of hired hands, but sons cannot be replaced

B. God still wants you as his heir

WOMAN [illegible] [illegible] C. GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU [illegible] MORE THAN YOU EXPECT