

Reflection Sheet

Questions I need to ask

Discoveries I need to share

Decisions I need to make

The Parish of Cannock and Huntington

Creating Community with Christ at the Centre

Lent Course — The Prodigal Son

Session Four: The True Elder Brother

Luke 15:31 “My son everything I have is yours”

- What do people need to escape the shackles of their particular brand of lostness?
- 1. God’s initiating love**
 - The father makes the first move—he comes out to each Son
 - He expresses his love for them both in order that they might come in
 - 2. Understanding**
 - Is it kind?
 - Is it true?
 - Does it help?
 - Is it necessary?

3. Forgiveness

Repentance must go deeper than regret for individual sins. Sorrow for sin may mean—sad to be found out or self-centred regret

- The one difference between the three parables in Luke 15 is: in the case of the sheep the shepherd went out to look; in the case of the coin the woman searched.
- No one went out to search for the lost son/brother
- Who should have gone out to search for the lost son c.f. Genesis Chapter 4
- THE TRUE ELDER BROTHER—would have gone out to search for his brother and bring him in
- It is only at the elder brother's expense that the younger son can be brought in
- There is no true Elder Brother in this parable. The younger Son has a brother who is a Pharisee

4. Cost

- Jesus is our brother—come from heaven—seek the lost c.f. Luke 19-10
- He paid the price—our debt on the cross

- Is your God an exacting boss or a loving father?

- Forgiveness costs dearly—forgiving love always comes at a cost