

The Story Of The 2 Cs (Part 2 of 3)

**(What Causes Christians to
become Callous?)**

4 20 08

Summary

- **"The Story of the 2 Cs"**

- **Compassion**

- **Awareness of hurt in others and desire to see relief**
 - **Love, Care, & Concern**

- **Callousness**

- **Devoid of feeling or passion**
 - **Emotionally hardened**
 - **Don't Love, Care, Concern (Indifference)**

- **Ex. Iraq**

- **Luke 15 Review – different perspective**

What Bible Says

- Luke 15:11-32

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, **give me** my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, **set off** for a distant country and there **squandered his wealth in wild living**. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

What Bible Says

- Luke 15:11-32

17"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20So he got up and went to his father.

"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.

21"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.[b]'

What Bible Says

- Luke 15:11-32

22"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

What Bible Says

- Luke 15:11-32

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!**'

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.' "

Compassion vs. Callousness

Father	Elder Son
Other Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beginning of story ● Dead/alive (v.32) 	Others & self Had Done: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Squandered your property (v. 30) ● All years I've slaved for you (v.29)
Inside a person (lost/dead)	What's outside (1Sam 16:7)
Bless - Wants the best	Fair - Get what they deserved
Look at present situations	Look at past problems
Love: - No matter how dirty	Anger: - No matter how changed
Long to see lost son (v.20) - Care (Compassion)	Busy doing good things - Indifference (Callousness)

Parable of the Prodigal Son

- **Widely taught that**
 - **Father represents God**
 - **Younger son represents one who is lost**
 - **What would the older son be?**
 - **In family**
 - **Christian in today's term**
 - **Note: younger son was initially in family**
- **Last week's focus:**
 - **Father & Older Son**
- **Younger Son compassionate or callous?**

What Causes Callousness in Christians

- **Younger Son**

Luke 15: 11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger one said to his father, 'Father, **give me** my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, **set off** for a distant country and there **squandered his wealth in wild living**."

- **Selfish (Spiritual)**

- v. 12 "Give me..." (What I want)
- v. 13 "Set off..." (Choose to be cut off)

- **Sins (Physical)**

- v. 13 "Squandered wealth in wild living"
- v. 30 "Squandered your property with..."

Focus

- **Not on Selfish (Spiritual) nor Sins (Physical)**

- We understand these
- Been preached many a time

- **Luke 15:25-30**

25"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28"The older brother **became angry** and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29But 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.'

A Cause of Callousness

- **“Slaving for You”**
 - **Too busy with life**
 - **American Dream (self)**
 - **Working for Lord**
 - **Too busy to care**
 - **Father was on a look out**
 - **Didn't know that brother was around**

Root Cause

- **Luke 15:28-30**

28"The older brother **became angry** and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29But 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.

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

- **In his case, business was a cover up**
- **What was the root cause of callousness for this son?**

Root Cause: Anger

3. Anger (Emotional vs. physical/spiritual)

a) Younger brother

- Squandered your property on wild living
 - How did he know?
- Family growing up
 - Favorable treatment
 - Not Fair. Yet not as much as ...

b) His Father

- V.29 **'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat**
- **1st time to be angry?**
- **What was the older son's belief about his father?**

Older Son's belief

- Does he really loves me?
- Why would he never even give me a young goat?
- What am I doing wrong? Is there something wrong with me?
- Maybe I have not worked hard enough? Need to slave some more...
- Does he love me? Over and over....
- Father's response:
31" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and **everything I have is yours.**

Effect of Hurt

- Didn't care about lost brother..
- Didn't know he was around
- Was not looking for his return
- Didn't want to celebrate
- Heart of Stone
- The story ends:

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

How did it really end for this son?

- ex. Lady from 2 Mondays ago

Next Week

- **How to remove the emotional cause of callousness (ie. Hurt)!**

Prayer

- What stood out for you in today's message?
- What are some other possible causes of callousness?
- How have you dealt with anger?
- Pray for one another.