

How Religion Ruined Christmas

“I’ll Be Home For Christmas” Part 3

Matthew 2:1-23, Luke 15:1-32

I. Introduction

A. Religion ruins things...

B. What exactly is religion?

1. The good sense

(set of beliefs, commitments, philanthropic organization,...)

2. The bad sense

(moralism, machine, institutionalization, organized religion,...)

C. Religion got a PR facelift — it’s “spiritual.”

II. Religion Ruined Christmas (Matt 2 and Lk. 15)

A. Religion rejected Jesus’ birth (Matt 2:1-8)

B. Religion rejected God’s grace (Luke 15)

1. The younger brother was not the only sinner.

2 Dead-End Paths:

1. Hedonism / Relativism (younger brother)

2. Moralism / Spiritualism (older brother)

2. The older brother could not see his sin.

III. Conclusion

A. Religion still ruins Christmas (among everything else it touches).

B. Which path have you taken: the younger or older brother? Both paths lead far from home.

C. Grace is what we need and that’s what Christmas is all about!

MOST HOME FELLOWSHIPS WILL BE ON BREAK FOR CHRISTMAS, BUT IN CASE YOU DO MEET or IN CASE YOU WANT A SMALL DEVOTIONAL, HERE’S A MINI HF

Home Fellowship Questions

Icebreaker: What is the worst Christmas present you have ever received?

1. Read the three parables in Luke 15. How do each of these parables relate to each other? What is Jesus’ overall point?

2. Recall from Sunday’s message that the title “prodigal son” is not a part of the passage itself, rather it was titled added in our modern times. In the biblical context, the father was as much of a prodigal as the younger son. Why is this so and discuss the ramifications of God being portrayed as a prodigal?

3. Read Matthew chapter 2 and discuss how the passage show’s God’s prodigal heart for the world and the extent to which He went to bring redemption for us. What does Phil 2:1-8 add to your discussion concerning the extravagant love of God?