

Application

4. Think again about the spiral of rebellion from question 2. If you had to deal with someone who was clearly beginning that path, how would you counsel them to make changes so they didn't get all the way to the bottom before repenting?
5. Have you had spiritual drought in your life caused by rebellion? How do you get yourself off the spiral? Don't settle for easy answers.

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THE ART OF REBELLION

TOPICS: REBEL, REPENTANCE, FORGIVENESS, GOD'S LOVE

THE OVERT REBEL

Luke 15:1-27

Suppose you could gain everything in the whole world and lose your soul.
Is it worth it?

Billy Graham

The set up for the story

The audience

By sinners, critics meant people who were sick, challenged, ill-mannered or poorly educated. In short, anyone who didn't measure up to their standards.

By Pharisees and teachers of the law, they meant people who were highly respected, very moral, very religious, and very knowledgeable about the Bible.

The stories

The point of the stories is that God is just as interested in celebrating as he is in finding the sheep.

The overt rebel

The son's demand – the father's response

Not everything needs to be learned by experience, but often the rebel can learn no other way.

The son's debauchery

The marks of an overt rebel: vanishing wealth, wild living, self-destructive behavior, inability to calculate costs.

The son's despair (Romans 8:20-21)

The father's forgiveness

The son's desperate rehearsal recognizes his predicament; but his deliverance is all in the hands of the father.

The incredible reality is the son's shame and embarrassment are completely laid aside; the father rejoices.

Getting to Know You

1. What is the best gift you have ever been given?

Into the Bible

2. Jim spoke about the marks of the younger son's rebellion. Can you think of other stories in the Bible that illustrate the same downward spiral to the bottom?
3. Read Ezekiel 39:25-39. This passage shows God's goal in restoring his children after their repentance. Compare these steps in restoration to the actions of the Father in Luke 15. How does this apply to us when we rebel against God?