

# THE PRODIGAL SON

## Luke 15: 11 - 24

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The parables of Luke 15 were called forth by a criticism of Jesus by the Scribes and Pharisees -- Luke 15:2; Matt. 9: 10 - 13
2. Their criticism was, "*This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them*" -- Luke 15: 2
3. In three parables Jesus taught them the interest that heaven has in that which is LOST.
  - (1) The LOST sheep -- Luke 15: 3- 7
  - (2) The LOST coin -- Luke 15: 8 - 10
  - (3) The LOST son -- Luke 15: 11 - 24
    1. In the parable of the LOST son the elder brother is used to represent the Scribes and Pharisees
    2. The elder brother was guilty of the sins of disposition such as anger, jealousy, self-righteousness, unwillingness to forgive.

### I. THE PRODIGAL SON

1. He was RESTLESS; he wanted to get out on his own away from his father -- Luke 15: 12 - 13.
  - (1) He wished to do things contrary to his Father's wishes.
    1. He could not "run with the crowd" he wished to be with at home.
    2. He could not indulge the LUST of the flesh as he wished at his father's home.
  - (2) Most people are just like him -- they desire to be on their own, to live in a state of independence, to be their own governors, and they feel they have no need for God.
  - (3) He went away because he was seeking to please HIMSELF.
    1. He was so intent on pleasing himself that he had NO thought for any hurt, pain or loss that might come to others.
    2. He did not take into account the deadly price for the privilege of SELF-PLEASING.
      - (1) It cost him FELLOWSHIP with his Father and all the joys of home
      - (2) It cost him FREEDOM -- Luke 15: 14 - 16
      - (3) It cost him HIS VERY ALL -- Luke 15: 13
      - (4) SELF-PLEASING is the root of our sins.
  - (4) Many members of the church are like the Prodigal son -- they get tired of the restrictions of the life of a Christian.
    1. They leave the Lord and His church thinking life will be easier and happier, but they find themselves slaves of sin -- I Pet. 2:19; Rom. 6:16; Matt. 6:24; John 8:34.
    2. There is NO master so cruel as the Devil -- Luke 15: 14 - 15; Prov. 5:9
    3. There is NO yoke so heavy as that of Sin -- Matt. 11:28; Prov. 13:15 "*The way of transgressors is hard*".
      - (1) He is HUNGRY -- Lk. 15: 14, 17

(2) He is HUMILIATED -- Lk. 15: 15 - 16

(3) he is HOME SICK -- Lk. 15:17

2. He was REBELLIOUS

(1) His request was a form of rebellion -- Lk. 15: 12

(2) The spirit of rebellion alienated him from his father.

(3) It is the spirit of rebellion that alienates all men from God.

(4) ALL SIN is rebellion against God.

II. HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE FAR COUNTRY

1. He wasted his substance -- Lk. 15: 13

(1) His money

(2) His manhood

(3) His self-respect

(4) His good name

2. He gave vent to his LUST

(1) He spent his money on harlots -- Lk. 15: 30

1. This is the quickest way for a man to get rid of his money -- Prov. 6: 24 - 26; Prov. 5:10; Job. 31:12

2. This kind of life will exhaust the body, debase the mind, ruin the soul and destroy the substance of any man -- Prov. 5:11; Prov. 6: 32; Rom. 1: 26 - 27

(1) Hosea 4:11 "*Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart*"

(2) He spent his money on Riotous Living -- Lk. 15:13

1. Forgetting that he had a soul, he pampered his passions

2. By so doing, he sank to the level of the brute creation.

3. He lost his self-respect and joined himself to a citizen of that country -- Lk. 15:15

(1) He sent him into a field to feed swine -- Lk. 15: 15

(2) This was a very obnoxious and humiliating task for a Jew.

(3) Sin leads from freedom to bondage of sin -- II Pet. 2:19

III. THE PRODIGAL SON'S RETURN

1. "*He came to himself*" --Lk. 15: 17

(1) He did some reflecting and saw things as they were.

(2) He gained his EQUILIBRIUM.

(3) He realized the servants in his father's house had more than he.

2. "*I will arise and go to my father*" -- Lk. 15:18

(1) Leaving his father was the cause of all his woe

(2) A return to his father would correct his misery.

(3) ALL who are in sin will suffer until they make up their minds to RETURN to their Father.

- (4) But going back to the father would make it necessary to confess his sins -- Lk. 15: 18 - 19
3. Back home again -- Lk. 15:20
- (1) "*But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him*" verse 20
- (2) Heaven is interested in us -- Lk. 19:10; Mk. 16: 15 - 16; Rom. 8:32
- (3) His father had compassion and showed it by meeting the son and kissing him -- verse 20
- (4) God's love and compassion is shown to us in the gift of His Son on the cross, and His willingness to forgive the sinner through Christ's shed blood -- John 3:16; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 2:9
- (5) The Father in heaven is in Christ reconciling the world to Himself -- II Cor. 5:19; Eph. 2: 13, 16
- (6) God is willing to restore us to His favor IF we will come to join Him in obedience to His will -- Matt. 7:21
4. The son said to his father, "*I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son*" -- verse 21
- (1) This was a full, unreserved confession of sin
- (2) He did not say: "IF I have sinned"
- (3) He confessed his sins
- (4) We who are children of God must repent and confess our sins when we sin -- Acts 8:22; I John 1:9
5. When he confessed his sins his father forgave him -- His father did everything to assure him of full and entire forgiveness -- Lk. 15: 22 - 24; Heb. 10:17

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you here and in sin?
2. Won't you come, correcting that sin?
3. Do you need to obey the gospel?

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