

# Lessons from the life of a prodigal

**LK.15:11-32**

**Obj: Eph. 6:4 – and ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (KJV)** \*As parents this is our mandate. The body

shares in this too, if we are parents, it applies directly.

However, even if we aren't we come alongside the parents to encourage them and to pray this for them. "What the church needs is good families and what families need is a good church"

**Background: LK.15:1-3 - Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ESV, some translations say complained or murmured. So he spoke a parable to them.** Remember that parable – means to cast alongside. It's a practical story used to illustrate spiritual truth. The story is used to illuminate the spiritual truth. The sinners are the cast aways, the ostracized, the shunned those left out. The pharisees and scribes were the very religious of the day. They had the presentation, the display or what they believed it to be. However they were missing the heart of the matter, which is Love! God's Love!

The parables mentioned and I think they build on each other;

The Lost sheep; The Lost coin; The lost son

A Parallel passage **Mt.18:10-14** is a parallel for the lost sheep but the emphasis is still the same **Mt.18:11 - For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. Lk.19:10 to seek and save that which was lost. LK.9:54-56 - When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them, just as Elijah did?” But He turned and rebuked them and said, you do not know what manner of Spirit you are of. For the son of man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them. Rom 2:4 Says that is the goodness of God that leads to repentance.**

#### **V.11-16**

- **Recognize** - that you have a prodigal, acknowledge and accept so you can respond accordingly. Pay attention to the signs, listen to those close to you. Don’t live in denial, that’s the worst thing that you could do.
- **Release** – let go, commit them into the hands of the Lord. This doesn’t mean that you are no longer involved but not trying to control the situation. Continue to share the truth as you have opportunity, but even more important pray without ceasing. Prodigal-excess or riotous, translated loose, reckless, wasteful. Similar word used in **Eph.5:18 & 1Pet4:4 Phil.4:6-7 – do not be**

**anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ESV 1 Pet.5:7 casting all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you.**

**V.16** What wasn't received through listening will now be learned through living; that's good, he or she can now see it for themselves. If that's what it takes, then so be it! He remembered what he had.

#### **V. 17-19**

- This is the verse, but when he came to himself, some translations say senses. Our ultimate desire should be **Repentance** – a u turn, a change of mind, it was pride when he left and now humility when he returns.

#### **V. 20-24**

- **Receive** – welcome, to take back again, to receive anyone hospitably. V.27 uses this word. If there is genuine repentance, genuine contrition then there should be genuine receiving. Please note that there is an expectation that the father is living with. Remember **Philemon v.8-12** depending on how bad the separation was the receiving can be very difficult.

**V. 25-32** this isn't **Right**, unfortunately the older brother was still living in the past as those who have this mindset do. What he doesn't realize is that he too is a prodigal he just didn't leave.

As you examine yourself, who are you in this story

The father, the younger son, or the older brother

Please see the heart of the father. **Jonah 4:10-11**

**And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"**