



**FAMILY MATTERS:
A TALE OF TWO PRODIGALS, PART ONE**
LUKE 15:10-32

Parenting Prodigals



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**Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."
(Luke 15:1-2)**

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⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:7)

¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)

³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'" (Luke 15:32)

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²⁴ For this **my son was dead**, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. (Luke 15:24)

³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this **your brother was dead**, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'" (Luke 15:32)

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Common Interpretive Mistake:

Confusing the thrust of these parables as pertaining to “wandering sheep” not spiritually dead sinners.

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Common Interpretive Mistake:

Confusing the thrust of these parables as pertaining to wandering sheep not spiritually dead sinners.

- Parable of LOST sheep.
- Parable of the LOST coin.
- Parable of the LOST son, or sons.

Parable of the Lost Sheep Story Line:

God seeks the non-believing, unsaved, sinner as the shepherd does the lost sheep. He's glad for the ninety saved but grieves for the unregenerate, unbelieving sinner who still needs salvation (Luke 15:4-7).

Parable of the Lost Coin Story Line:

God stands ready, willing, and able to sweep aside the sin of the lost person with the blood of Christ and the grace of God like the woman who sweeps the room in search of a single coin. The coin didn't wander away for a while---it was lost. (Luke 15:8-10)

Parable of the Lost (Prodigal) Son Story Line:

And the prodigal son is a non-believer whom his own father saw as dead. This son rejected his father, his family, his upbringing, and his religion, squandering his inheritance. God stands ready, willing, and able to forgive, redeem, and save as soon as that individual repents of their sin and turns to Him by faith. (Luke 15:10-32).



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¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." ¹¹ And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² **And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.'** And he divided his property between them. (Luke 15:10-12)

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Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into **a far country,** and there he **squandered his property** in reckless living. (Luke 15:13)

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And **when he had spent everything**, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.¹⁵ So he went and **hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country**, who sent him into his fields to **feed pigs**.¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. (Luke 15:14-16)

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"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!¹⁸ **I will arise and go to my father**, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you."¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."²⁰ **And he arose and came to his father.** (Luke 15:17-20)

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18b"Father, **I have sinned against heaven and before you.** **19**
 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as
 one of your hired servants." **20** **And he arose and came to**
his father. (Luke 15:18b-20)

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"But when he came to himself, he said... 18 I will arise and
go to my father... 20 And he arose and came to his father.
 (Luke 15:17-20)

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But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and **ran and embraced** him and **kissed him**.²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

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²² But the father said to his servants, '**Bring quickly** the best robe, and **put it on him**, and **put a ring on his hand**, and **shoes on his feet**.'

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²³ And **bring the fattened calf and kill it**, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this **my son was dead**, and **is alive again**; he **was lost**, and **is found**. And they began to celebrate (Luke 15:20-24).



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Profile of a prodigal

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He deliberately does what he does (Luke 15:12).

**And the younger of them said to his father,
'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to
me.' And he divided his property between them.**

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She does not think of the well-being or needs of others (Luke 15:13-14a).

¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything...

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He will do almost anything to get what he wants (Luke 15:12, 15).

¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.

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They love themselves above God, parents and siblings (Luke 15:13).

13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

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She demands to be accommodated (Luke 15:12b).

'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.'

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He is at risk, eternally speaking (Luke 15: 24, 32).

²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

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WHAT CAN I DO?

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Three Steps you can take to help your prodigal and your family:

Don't compromise or negotiate; instead: "do nothing" (Luke 15:12, 14, 20; 24).

¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

Don't be naïve, or make excuses for their behavior
(Luke 15:24, 32):

²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'" (Luke 15:32)

Be hopeful not hopeless (Luke 15:20a).

²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

APPLICATION:

1. Consider this profile and this pathway.
2. Electives (sign up and attend).
3. Handout in lobby.

RESOURCES:

1. Your Child's Profession of Faith, by Dennis Gundersen.
2. Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert, Rosaria Butterworth.
3. Out of a Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God. A Broken Mother's Search for Hope, Christopher Yuan.



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