



## Jesus & the Prodigals

*Making it easy to come home.*

### SCRIPTURES:

Luke 15:1-2

Luke 15:11-31

Titus 2:11-14

### INTRODUCTION:

Take a moment to read through Luke 15:1-2, then 11-31. The parable is actually 3 compare and contrast stories all wrapped together. 1) The Pharisees and Teachers of the Law are being compared/contrasted with the Tax Collectors and Sinners. 2) The two sons are being compared/contrasted with one another. 3) The Good Father is being compared/contrasted with the Gentile Pig Farmer. **Take a moment to list the ways these comparisons/contrasts are revealed in the story.**

### SERMON SUMMARY:

On Sunday, Dave invited us to think about the ways the Prodigal Son's memories of family might have influenced his willingness to come back home. **How has God given you experiences and memories that call you to "come home" and assure you of His love? Can you describe one of those experiences for your group?**

Do you find it interesting that through the course of the parable, the two sons kind of switch roles? The oldest son, who faithfully stayed in the Father's house and worked for him, ends up refusing to go into the Father's house...refusing to celebrate, and be part of the family; while the younger son, who wasted his inheritance in an unclean place, ends up celebrating his sonship and family in the Father's house? **Have you ever seen this happening in the Church today? What would that look like in the Church?**

**In Titus 2, the Apostle Paul writes:** "11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled,

upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good." **It's pretty clear** that the Father was trying to teach the prodigal son through grace, while the Older Son was trying to teach his brother through shame and reproach. We have probably all known people who were experts at teaching through both methods.

#### **APPLICATION:**

**In your experience, what has the Church's approach to teaching the prodigals been? Has the Church allowed grace to teach us to say, "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions? And honestly, what does that even mean?**

How can the Church do better in the way it teaches us to say "no" to ungodliness and "yes" to self-controlled, upright and godly lives? How can you do better in this area?