

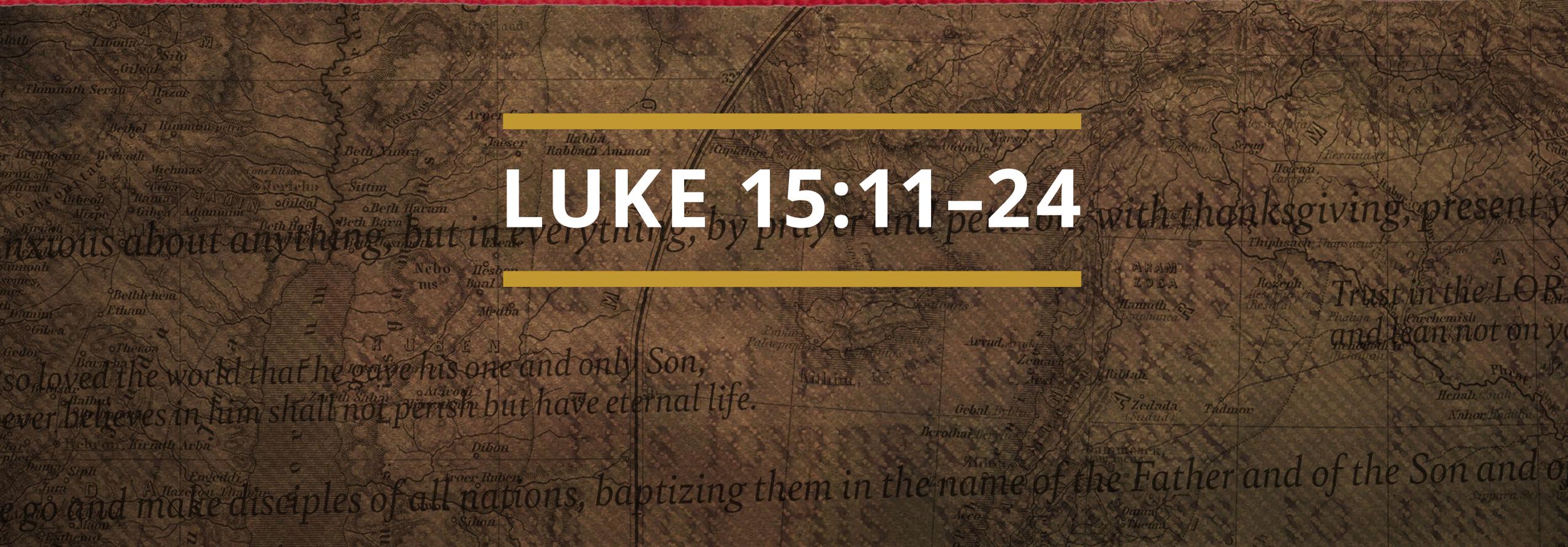


God created the heavens and the earth.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

He took up our pain and bore our suffering,

THE FACE OF GRACE



LUKE 15:11-24

anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present yourselves to God.

so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

and I will send you out to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Amen.

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. 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, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to

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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.

¹⁷ “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

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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. 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

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before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 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. 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 15:11-24

1. GRACE ALLOWS THE FREEDOM TO LEAVE THE FATHER'S FELLOWSHIP.

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. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country,

— *Luke 15:12-13*

1. GRACE ALLOWS THE FREEDOM TO LEAVE THE FATHER'S FELLOWSHIP.

The father in this story serves as a model in dealing with rebellious children.

- The father did not let the rebellious child dictate how the rest of the family was going to live.
- The father dealt with the rebellious child on the level of principle rather than person.

2. GRACE ALLOWS THE FREEDOM TO MAKE YOUR OWN MISTAKES.

The 5 steps to the pig pen:

- He was selfish (v. 12).
- He was careless (v. 13).
- He was wasteful (v. 13).
- He was isolated.
- He was crushed under the weight of bad choices (vv. 14-16).

3. GRACE REJOICES WHEN THE FALLEN RETURN AND WELCOMES THEM BACK WITH GREAT CELEBRATION.

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3. GRACE REJOICES WHEN THE FALLEN RETURN AND WELCOMES THEM BACK WITH GREAT CELEBRATION.

After the forgiveness,
the father gave grace in four ways:

- Robe (v. 22).
- Ring (v. 22).
- Shoes (v. 22).
- Feast (vs. 23).

The son did these things that resulted in grace:

- **He was hungry.**

- **He was repentant.**

"I will arise and go to my father."

- **He was honest.**

"I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.'"

- **He was humble.**

"I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."

- **He resolved to do the right thing.**

"And he arose and came to his father."