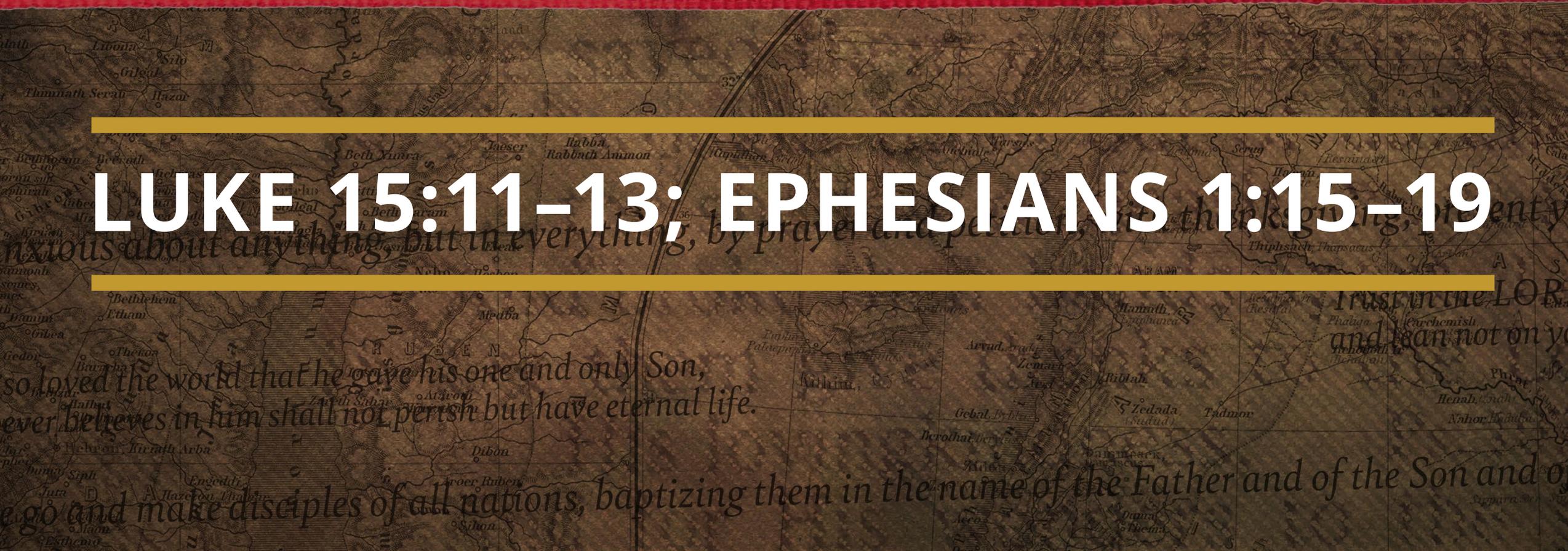




# PRAYING FOR YOUR REBELLIOUS CHILD

LUKE 15:11-13; EPHESIANS 1:15-19



# 7 Things You'll Never Hear Your Dad Say:

7. I notice all your friends have a hostile attitude—I like that!
6. Well now that you're 13, Princess, I want you to start dating older guys.
5. No son of mine is going to live under my roof with an earring!
4. Why do you want to get a job? I've got plenty of money for you to spend!
3. Your mother and I are going away for the weekend—you might want to consider throwing a party.
2. Here's my credit card and the keys to my car—now, GO CRAZY!
1. Well, looks like I'm lost—I guess I'll have to stop and ask for directions!

<sup>11</sup> ...“A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate I have coming to me.’ So he distributed the assets to them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he had and traveled to a distant country, where he squandered his estate in foolish living.

**LUKE 15:11-13**

<sup>15</sup> This is why, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit, of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.

<sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

**EPHESIANS 1:15-19**

# Who do you most identify with in this parable?

- Maybe **you're the parent**
- Maybe **you're like the sibling.**
- Maybe **you're the prodigal.**

## **Consider these truths...**

1. We are all prodigals to one degree or another.
2. No one is beyond hope or help.
3. No one knows the heart of another person.
4. We can pray when we can't do anything else.

# HOW SHOULD WE PRAY FOR OUR REBELLIOUS CHILD?

## 1. We pray in the direction of ourselves.

Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, **watching out for yourselves so you also won't be tempted.**

— *Galatians 6:1*

# HOW SHOULD WE PRAY FOR OUR REBELLIOUS CHILD?

## 2. We pray in the direction of Satan.

- Bound by the world.

Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world.

If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For everything that belongs to the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's lifestyle—is not from the Father, but is from the world.

— *1 John 2:15–16*

# HOW SHOULD WE PRAY FOR OUR REBELLIOUS CHILD?

## 2. We pray in the direction of Satan.

- **Blinded by Satan.**

...the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. — *2 Corinthians 4:4*

# HOW SHOULD WE PRAY FOR OUR REBELLIOUS CHILD?

## 3. We pray in the direction of the rebellious.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength. — *Ephesians 1:18–19*

# HOW SHOULD WE PRAY FOR OUR REBELLIOUS CHILD?

- **That they would understand their future.** (v. 18)  
*...the hope of His calling*
- **That they would understand their worth.** (v. 18)  
*...the wealth of his glorious inheritance*
- **That they would understand their power.** (v. 19)  
*...the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of His strength.*

# HOW SHOULD WE PRAY FOR OUR REBELLIOUS CHILD?

## 4. We pray in the direction of Christ.

Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...” (John 6:44)

Paul said it like this in 2 Tim. 2:25–26 — “Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth. Then they may come to their senses and escape the Devil’s trap, having been captured by him to do his will.”

# TWO FINAL ENCOURAGEMENTS:

- *First, to leave the when and where to God.*
- *Secondly, coming back to the Lord is usually a process and not an event.*