

## The Prodigal In All of Us

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: When you hear the word "Prodigal", what comes to mind?

Q: Have you ever been one? What was THAT like?

**READ: Luke 15:11-16** "And he said, 'There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.'"

Q: What's one thing you notice about the son?

Q: What's one thing you notice about the Father?

Q: How did the son, use his inheritance?

Q: What's spiritually significant about "taking a journey to a far country"?

Q: According to verse 14, he "spent everything". How does his sinful heart lead him?

Q: What is significant about verse 15, given the context of WHO Jesus is telling this parable too?

Q: What does this tell us about this boy's spiritual condition?

Q: What does this tell us about the progressive nature of sin?

Q: What's verse 16 indicate? How have we seen this in real life examples?

**READ: Luke 15:17-19** "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! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against

heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." ' "

Q: So what's interesting about verse 17?

Q: What's the plan at this point according to verses 18-19?

Q: What's the difference between being humble and being humbled? Which category does this boy fit into? Which of the two is better in the long run?

**READ: Luke 15: 20-24** " <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.' <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."

Q: Is it interesting to you that the Father didn't chase after His son? Why do you think He didn't? What does THAT teach us about our relationship with God?

Q: What's the reaction of the Father to the son? What does this teach us about the Father? (hint: Psalm 103:10)

Q: Why is verse 24 significant?

**READ: Luke 15:7** (given after the Parable of the Lost Sheep and just before the Parable of the Lost Coin and right before the Parable of the Lost Sons) "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."

Q: What does the son do that causes the Father's reaction?

Q: Why should WE long for this, work for this, pray for this, focus on this....and seek to be used by God to bring this about?

**For Further Study/Contemplation:** READ: Luke 15:15-32 and consider the attitude of the older son to the younger. What was significant about his attitude? Why does Jesus seem to leave his story unfinished?