

Jesus Parables: The Prodigal Son

Pastor Jay Hassman

September 14, 2025

Day 1: The Father's Extravagant Love

Reading: Luke 15:11-24

Devotional: As we read the parable of the prodigal son, we're struck by the father's extravagant love. Despite his son's rejection and rebellion, the father never stops watching for his return. When he sees him from afar, he runs – disregarding cultural norms and his own dignity – to embrace his lost child. This is a picture of God's love for us. No matter how far we've strayed or how badly we've sinned, God's arms are open wide. His love isn't based on our performance, but on His character. Today, reflect on areas where you might be running from God. What would it look like to turn back towards home? Remember, the Father is already watching, waiting to run to you with open arms.

Day 2: The Emptiness of Sin

Reading: Luke 15:13-16, Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Devotional: The younger son's journey into the "far country" reminds us of sin's deceptive nature. What promises freedom often leads to bondage. What feels like life often ends in death. Solomon, in Ecclesiastes, echoes this truth as he recounts his pursuit of pleasure, only to find it "meaningless." Have you experienced the emptiness that follows chasing worldly desires? Today, take inventory of your life. Are there areas where you're settling for the "pods" of this world instead of the abundance of the Father's house? Ask God to reveal where you might be deceived by sin's empty promises and pray for the strength to turn away from those things and towards Him.

Day 3: Coming to Our Senses

Reading: Luke 15:17-20, Psalm 51:1-12

Devotional: The turning point for the prodigal son was when he "came to his senses." This moment of clarity led to genuine repentance. Similarly, David's psalm of repentance shows us what it looks like to truly turn back to God. Repentance isn't just feeling sorry; it's a change of mind that leads to a change of direction. It involves acknowledging our sin, turning away from it, and running back to God. Today, spend time in honest self-examination. Are there areas of your life where you need to "come to your senses"? Pray David's words as your own, asking God to create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit within you.

Day 4: The Danger of Self-Righteousness

Reading: Luke 15:25-32, Matthew 23:25-28

Devotional: The older son's reaction reveals another form of lostness – one rooted in self-righteousness and resentment. His inability to celebrate his brother's return exposes a heart that's far from the father, despite his outward obedience. Jesus often warned against this kind of "whitewashed" righteousness. It's possible to do all the right things externally while missing God's heart entirely. Today, examine your own heart. Are there ways you might be acting like the older brother? Do you ever resent God's grace towards others? Ask God to reveal any hidden pride or self-righteousness and pray for a heart that rejoices in His mercy – both for yourself and for others.

Day 5: Embracing Our Identity as Sons and Daughters

Reading: Luke 15:22-24, Galatians 4:4-7

Devotional: The father's response to his returning son is breathtaking. He doesn't just forgive; he restores. The robe, ring, and sandals all speak of full reinstatement as a son. Paul reminds us in Galatians that through Christ, we too have been adopted as God's children. We're not mere servants, but heirs. This identity isn't based on our performance, but on God's grace. Today, meditate on what it means to be a child of God. How might your life look different if you truly lived from this identity? Thank God for the privilege of being called His son or daughter and ask Him to help you walk in the freedom and authority that comes with that position.