

THE PRODIGAL GOD  
Give Me Mine  
Luke 15:11-32  
Week 2 May 12, 2024  
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Most people see God as one whom they need to impress, perform for and live well enough that they can increase in worth in His eyes.

- What is your relationship with God?
- How do you see Him, relate to Him?
- What is it you want from God?

*11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. 25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 " 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' " Luke 15:11-32 NIV*

How does the gospel create a special and new kind of community? Picture an assault on community by idolatry that is only overcome by agony.

## I. AN ASSAULT ON COMMUNITY - THE DISSOLUTION OF A FAMILY

- A. The first assault is by the younger son.
- B. The second assault on the family is the crisis that occurred when the younger son returned. The older brother refused to accept his brother back.

The younger son was immoral: out right sin.

The older son was self-righteous and had lots of anger toward the Father.

## II. HOW DOES IDOLATRY TEAR UP COMMUNITY?

- He could not get enough beauty, bodies, and tastes, to satisfy his cravings.
1. They always left him empty.
  2. He did things he did not want to do, he couldn't stop.
  3. His relationships were always breaking up. He wanted love, real love, but could not find it.

You disorder your loves when you make a good thing the ultimate thing.

The problem of the older brother is he thought his waiting and slaving had paid off.

### The Trinity Displays Loving Community

If we are made in the image of God, then there are two bottom lines for our existence.

1. Your life is about community, loving relationships.
2. You were built to do with God what God does with Himself.

## III. THE YOUNGER SON SHOULD HAVE BEEN DRIVEN OUT

When hurt badly by someone, you will close and harden your heart.

This father suffered for his son's sin. He suffered for the possibility of redemption, reconciliation.

He bore the agony of his son's sin so they could be reconciled

There is nothing more breathtaking, not a more beautiful site or thought, than that an infinitely perfect and happy being would descend into the world and sacrifice everything for ungrateful, undeserving human beings like us.