**The Parables of Jesus
The Parable of the Prodigal Son
The Parable of the Prodigal Son – Luke 14:11-32**

**In this parable**, **Jesus emphasized the importance of a lost soul returning to the Heavenly Father**.

**He dealt with several important areas:**

1. **Rebellion** – The young son rebelling against his father.
2. **Riotous living of the son** – living in sin never satisfies.
3. **Repentance** – the son saw his mistake and repented.
4. **Restoration** – the father restored the runaway son.
5. **Rejection** – the son who stayed home became angry at the love shown by the father to the prodigal son.

Jesus is not dealing here with *the whole gospel message* but **with the *one great fact* of the Father’s pardoning love**. **This is a message of *God’s forgiving love for sinners*.**

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

As we look at this parable, **let’s look at how God the Father relates to us personally** and **how He relates to the world** in a general sense, because ***the world itself is like a prodigal son*** unto the Father.

It chronicles the process in many of our lives of **what we go through before we really come to** a comprehensive understanding of **God’s great love**.

**The Spiritual Journey of the Prodigal Son.**

What this parable really shows us is the spiritual journey *many of us go through* or *went through* **in finding ourselves** in the hands of a loving Heavenly Father.

1. **Selfishness & Rebellion are Experience.**

**Luke 15:11-12 - The Parable of the Lost Son -** 11 Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood.

**The Root Problem -** In these two verses we find the root problem of ***what made this son turn away from*** his father and all that he had to offer him.

* He was full of **self-will and selfishness**
* With a desire to experience **the sins of youth**.

**By faith Moses chose to suffer affliction** with the people of God rather than to enjoy *the passing pleasures of sin*.

**Hebrews 11:25 -** He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

**This is the story of people who foolishly follow the lusts and desires of the world *rather than following God*.**

1. **The Son Forsakes the Love and Security of His Father for a Fling with the World.**

**Luke 15:13 -** 13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with **prodigal living**. **(*wasteful)***

**1 John 2:15-17 - Do Not Love the World -** 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

* This passage speaks of **the lusts of the world that everyone deals with** at one time or another.
* The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life **are all areas of temptation *that draw us away from the love of the Father*.**
* This is **exactly what the son did**.

The Prodigal son went out from **the covering of his father** and wasted his life and his substance with riotous living.

1. **Disaster Strikes**

**Luke 15:14** But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

What often happens in situations like this is that *we end up reaping what we sow*.

**Galatians 6:7 -** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

**His money ran out** and then to add to the problem, ***the country was experiencing a famine.***

* **This could be indicative of the world in the last days.**
* ***The world has been like the prodigal son following its*** lusts, living in extravagance, and spending its inheritance.
* But there is going to **come a day of reckoning** when it all runs out.
* **The world** will begin to feel the effects of **the birth pangs mentioned in Matthew 24** and as a result **there will be in tremendous want**.

**Revelation 6:5-6 - Third Seal: Scarcity on Earth -** 5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.”

**Matthew 24:7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

1. **The Consequences of Living a Foolish Life. 1 Timothy 6:9 -** 9 People who want to be rich fall into all sorts of temptations and traps. They are caught by foolish and harmful desires that drag them down and destroy them.

**Psalm 107:17 -** Fools, because of their transgression, And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.

**Proverbs 13:15 -** Good judgment wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful leads to their destruction

1. **Desperation Brings us to Our Senses.**

**Luke 15:17 -** “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

**The Son came to himself.**

* In other words, *he came to his senses*.
* As **disillusionment** set in, *he came to his senses*.
* **Hardship** has a wonderful way of *bringing people to face facts*.

***The prodigal reflected on the contrast between*** the starvation he was experiencing and the full and plenty enjoyed not only by his father and brother alone, but by his father’s hired servants. ***Even for them there was bread enough to spare.***

1. **The Moment of Decision.**

**Luke 15:18-19 -** 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 servants.’

The prodigal son makes **an important decision** as a result of coming to his senses.

* *He comes to a place of* **repentance, humility and confession**
* And *realizes* **how unworthy he is.**
1. **The Compassion and Forgiveness of the Father.**

**This is the beautiful part of the story.**

***Even though the prodigal son had wasted his life,*** his father was **waiting to receive him back** with open arms.

**Luke 15:20-21 -** 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.’

* **The father ran out to meet him.**
* **Christ also invites us to come.**

**Revelation 3:20 -** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

* **The son confesses his mistakes.**
* **We too, must confess to God.**

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1. **The Robe of Righteousness.**

**Luke 15:22 -** “But the father said to his servants, [a]‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

* **The father has the servants *bring out the best robe* to put on him**
* **As well as *a ring on his hand* and *sandals on his feet*.**

**This speaks of how he was fully received back into the family.**

* The best robe was **a sign of position**
* The ring **conveyed authority.**
* The sandals marked him out **as a freeman.**

**When we come into the arms of our heavenly Father, *He clothes us with a robe of righteousness*.**

**Job 29:14 -** I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban.

**Zechariah 3:3-4 -** 3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.”

**When the father clothed his prodigal son *with the best robe*, he was *saying to his son* and *to all those around him* that his son was totally forgiven in his sight and his sins would not be held against him.**

**Psalm 103:12 -** As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

* **How far has the Lord taken our sins from us?**
* ***Farther than the distance* from east to west!**
1. **Rejoicing Over a Repentant Sinner.**

**Luke 15:23-24 -** 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.

**The father further exemplifies the heart of God when he shows rejoicing over his repentive son.**

**Luke 15:7 -** I say to you that likewise there will ***be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents*** than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

1. **The Elder Son’s Reaction.**

**Luke 15:25-32 -** 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.’”***

**The lesson here is not to take on the attitude of the Pharisees.**

***Let’s not let our allow our carnal attitudes to cause us to be like this older brother who was exhibiting a pharisaical attitude towards sinners.***

**We must rejoice when a sinner repents.**

**Regardless of a person’s past life, God has forgiven and forgotten their sin.**

* If a person wastes his life, **don’t be critical.**
* Show **God’s love and compassion** toward them.