



"The Welcoming Father!"

The Parable of the Prodigal Son can actually be called the "*Parable of the Welcoming Father!*"

- Luke 15:11-32
- The repentance of the son is the focus to the parable! When a person chooses to live a sinful and rebellious lifestyle, and then finally chooses God...that is Good News when they finally realize their own horrible sinful state!
- The father's willingness to forgive his son in this parable is of greater focus!
- **Why?** Without the forgiveness of the Father...the son would never be able to come home!
- Please know this...*there can never be forgiveness unless there is repentance first!*
- What a picture of Jesus showing us how the Heavenly Father's love towards us sinners is forgiven when we turn to Him!
- The Heavenly Father is eager to forgive and longs for the return of the repentant sinner!
- Yet, we also see an older brother in this parable who is self-righteous and refuses to celebrate when the lost son comes home to the father!
- Jesus is addressing the Pharisee's prejudice they are living when it comes to a lost sinner coming back to the Heavenly Father! (The older brother in the story)
- The Pharisee's and Scribes absolutely resented Jesus' mission on coming from the Heavenly Father to seek out sinners and bring them into God's family!

1. A father and two sons!

- Luke 15:11-12
- In the Mosaic law (Law of Moses), the firstborn son is entitled to two-thirds of his father's property (Deuteronomy 21:17). But, what is happening here is very unusual! To give the property to a son before the father's death almost never happened, and for a son to request it *would be very insulting to the father!*
- **Basically...**"I wish you were dead already dad...I just want my portion!"
- The son takes one-third of the inheritance and leaves. Verse 13
- What a picture here of the sinner who doesn't care for the Heavenly Father, abandons the Heavenly Father and begins to waste his life living in sin!
- Mark the Word of God today...when you *abandon the Heavenly Father*, you don't just waste away your inheritance, but you will end up in gross, sinful immorality! Verses 16 & 30
- Psalms 19:12-14 – the Downward Spiral of sin! *It gets worse!*

- Verse 13 – “**Wild or Prodigal!**” / **Prodigal** = “Dissolute” which means utterly debauched lifestyle and promiscuous sexual activity. Sexual sin!
- **Remember**...this is not what he just did to himself...this is what he did to his own father, family and the Heavenly Father!
- Verse 14 – his sinful lifestyle finally catches up to him!
- Verse 16 “**But no one gave him anything!**”
- **FACT: Sin will leave you with nothing!** The people that you run with in your sin life...**they won't be there for you!** When it comes to someone else giving you something...**they will just think of themselves!**
- Verse 15-16 – swine (pigs) are the worst kind of unclean animal according to the Jews! (Leviticus 11:7)
- Jesus is showing his Jewish audience that even the worst sinful actions and sinner out there can be forgiven by the Heavenly Father **IF** they choose to repent!
- Verse 17-18 “I will go home to my father” ...“Father, I have sinned against both Heaven and you...I am no longer worthy being called your son.” “Please take me on as a hired servant.”
- This son, as horrible and gross of sins that he committed, KNEW that his father was a **GOOD FATHER!** That he could return to him and at least not die!

Verse 20!!!!!! Here is **THE** picture of the Heavenly Father just waiting on the sinner to come home!

- Verses 21-23 shows the father's complete forgiveness and restoration of the relationship with his son...his sinful son who repented!
- **LOL** – in his excitement and joy of the return of his son...he literally interrupts the son's rehearsed apology! Verse 21
- Notice what is left out “*Please take me on as your hired servant.*”
- Instead of making his son a servant, the father in verse 22 says to the servants...“**Quick!**”
- Verse 22 – “**Best robe**” / “**Ring**” / “**Shoes or Sandals**”
- **Best robe** = a true mark of distinction!
- **Ring** = signifies authority as a son *not a servant!*
- **Shoes or Sandals** = servants do not wear sandals...*the sandals point to a free man!*

Closing: The point of the Parable?

- Verses 24 / 32 – “For this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life! He was lost, but now is found!”
- **Sin** = spiritual death forever! Separated from God forever!
- To go from death to life is **THE MIRACLE** of this life! **Salvation!!!** The **best GIFT** ever from God!
- Ephesians 2:1-5! Ephesians 2:8-10!
- The Welcoming Heavenly Father!