

## THE PARABLES OF JESUS

### LESSON 3

#### The Parable of The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

##### Context

1. The religious leaders have rejected Jesus, yet they are constantly following Him around to find fault with Him. With whom was Jesus' most effective ministry (Luke 15:1)? For whom did Jesus come (Luke 5:31-32)? Why didn't Jesus spend all His time with the religious and self-righteous?

2. In the stories of Luke 15:4-10, what is the attitude of the people who find their lost sheep and their lost coin? With what are the found sheep and found coin compared with in Luke 15:7, 10?

##### Read Luke 15:11-32

3. The parable of the prodigal son is a wonderful picture of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a picture of the forgiving love of God towards sinners who confess their sin and ask for forgiveness. The youngest son was considered as lost and dead but now was found and alive--just like Jesus' joyful life giving ministry to the lost. In this parable, who does the father represent? Who does the youngest son represent? How about the older son (Compare 15:2 with 15:28)?

4. According to Luke 15:13-17, what is Jesus' view of the human condition apart from God? Contrast the youngest son's condition apart from his father (v. 13-17) with his condition restored to his father (v. 22-24).

5. Was the youngest son loved because of good works he had done? Was he restored to his position because of any good thing he had done? In fact how were all the followers of Christ accepted and ministered to--by their own merit or by God's grace (Rom. 5:8, I Jn. 4:9-10)?

6. In Luke 15:18-19, what is the lost son's attitude and perspective? What is he willing to do? Considering what he did (v. 12-13, 30), what did he deserve? Did the father give him what he deserved? How did the father view the previous condition of the youngest son with his returned condition in v. 32?

7. What is the spiritual condition of man apart from God (Ps. 143:2, 10-12; Rom. 3:23; Jeremiah 17:9)? What is a person's first step of reconciliation with God (Luke 15:18)? According to Luke 15:7, 10 what will God's reaction be (I John 1:9)?

8. The Pharisees are represented by the older son. Jesus regarded their self-righteousness as superficial and insufficient. They thought they had rights and a heritage that guaranteed their entrance into the kingdom of heaven. What was the oldest son's gripe against his father (in v. 28-29)? What is God's attitude toward men who boast and hold their good works up as evidence of their righteousness (Jeremiah 9:23-24, Isaiah 64:6, Ephesians 2:8-9, I Corinthians 1:29-31, 2 Corinthians 10:17-18)?

9. The main character in this parable is really the father who represents God. Since God has love and patience toward us and is willing to forgive us, what does Scripture say our attitude should be toward someone who has sinned against us (Matthew 18:21-22, Luke 17:3-4, Ephesians 4:32)?

10. Why did Jesus come (Luke 5:31-32, 19:10, Mark 10:45)? We are loved as sons not according to performance or works or conditions, but because of the love of God. What did the love of God motivate Him to do (John 3:16, I Timothy 2:3-6, Ephesians 2:4-7)?