

## A Prodigal Parable

### Luke 15:1-2 (ESV)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.<sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

**Video** – The calling of Matthew

### Luke 15:3-10 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup> “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

### Luke 15:11-32 (ESV)

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

### Luke 15:11-12 (ESV)

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.

*We are always heading for trouble when we value things more than people, pleasure more than responsibility and the foreign more than the blessings of home.*

### **Luke 12:15 (ESV)**

And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

- The division of inheritance.
- He says “give me my share”
- What is he communicating to his father?
- Do we sometimes have a similar attitude?
- We are co-heirs with Christ! Of what?
- God will give us what we want!
- He knows the outcome.
- To whom does the balance of his property belong?
- Why does the younger son want his inheritance?

### **Luke 15:13 (ESV)**

Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

- He quickly heads out. He wastes no time!
- Are you quick to spend earthly treasure on personal pleasure? Consider the cost!
- Why do you gather ALL you have?
- A far off country exists in our hearts first!
- Why did he go so far?
- Are you squandering the Father’s gifts?
- The Parable of the Talents.
- Are you living recklessly or purposefully?
- Reckless living leads to famines!
- He was far from his father, with no community or accountability; he had burnt all his relational bridges and was living recklessly.

### **Luke 15:14 (ESV)**

And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

- Abraham faced famines when he wandered off.
- Are you inviting famines into your life?
- Why would our good God author famines?
- Have you realized yet that this world can’t satisfy?
- Paul shared the secret to contentment.
- Are you seeking greener grass?

### **Luke 15:15-16 (ESV)**

So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

- How hungry do you have to be to eat pig slop?
- It was his lack that gave him an appetite!

### **Luke 15:17 (ESV)**

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!’

- Often need and lack brings us to our senses.
- Have you come to your senses?

**Luke 15:18-19 (ESV)**

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”

- He didn’t just say he was going to do something.
- His humiliation had resulted in some humility.
- What did he know about his father’s character?
- He repents!!! He acknowledges that he has sinned.
- He is asking for forgiveness.
- Suggesting the conditions of his punishment.
- Have you ever felt unworthy because of sin?
- A saint can’t lose their sonship just fellowship.
- Make me a servant!
- Let’s never forget the father’s response here!

**Luke 15:20 (ESV)**

And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

- He truly repented.
- Repentance takes courage and confidence in our Father’s response and resume.
- “While he was still a long way off”
- Do you know that our heavenly Father sees you?
- Are you grateful for our Father’s compassion?

**Psalms 145:8-9 (NIV)**

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. <sup>9</sup>The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

**Colossians 3:12-13 (ESV)**

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

- The father ran to the prodigal son!
- The father was looking for the son to come home.
- What a warm welcome!

**Luke 15:21-22 (ESV)**

And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.

- We were never worthy in the first place.
- He never even got to finish his speech.
- The father’s heart was on display!
- He reminded and restored him as his son.
- He gave him back his inheritance!

**Luke 15:23-24 (ESV)**

And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

- This is our spiritual condition before we come home to the Father!
- In Christ we are ALIVE and FOUND!
- Next Jesus focuses in on the Pharisee and scribes.

**Luke 15:25-32 (ESV)**

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Invitation