

LESSONS FROM A PRODIGAL

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE | SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Luke 15:11-32 *And 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 falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. 25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. 28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. 29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: 30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. 31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. 32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.*

- This is a famous parable that focuses on the results of sin, the power of forgiveness and the blessing of staying faithful.

1. His Shortsighted _____ (11-13)

- Shortsighted means lacking in foresight, not seeing or planning ahead.
- The prodigal son demanded what he felt he _____.
 - The road to backsliding often involves thinking selfishly.
 - Be careful what we ask for, God just may give it.
- The prodigal acted very _____ after his demand was met.
 - “Not many days”—it seems that once we made up our mind to live for self, apart from God, things can happen very _____.
 - That’s why it’s important for us to have regular spiritual _____.
- The prodigal went to a “far country” to waste his _____ with riotous living

1 Corinthians 10:12 *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

2. His Substance _____ (14-16)

- The prodigal learned the hard way that sin has but a small season of enjoyment, before it is followed with seasons of **guilt**, **shame**, and **regret**.

James 1:15 *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

- The Bible says the prodigal “wasted his substance.”
 - “Wasted” means to use or expend carelessly, to no purpose.
 - “Investing” means there is great probability that we will achieve a profit.
- The Bible says he spent all and was in _____.

3. His Softened _____ (17-19)

- The prodigal finally gets to the place where he hits “_____.”
 - Rock bottom is the place where reach a definite _____ as a result of running from God.
 - This can be referred to the place where God finally gets our _____.
- This requires _____ (v. 17-19)

- He realized even his father’s _____ were in a better situation than he was in.
- He acknowledged his _____ against God.
- He acknowledged that he did not deserve to be called a son.
- This involves _____ (v. 20)
 - Not only did he acknowledge his sin, but he took the necessary steps to be restored.
- This involves _____ (v. 21)
 - He verbally expressed his wrong to the person he _____.

4. His _____ Dad (20-24)

- The father’s _____
 - God too looks at us when we live in sin and likewise sees the wear and tear in our lives and shows _____.
- The father’s _____ (v. 22)
 - Mercy is not getting the punishment we deserve.
- The father’s _____ (v. 23-24)
 - The father wanted to show the son the _____ of getting things “right.”
 - Our attitude toward someone getting saved or getting right with God ought to be _____!

5. His Sibling’s _____ (25-30)

- Instead of rejoicing that his brother came back home, he became _____.
- He felt that he _____ more than what his brother got.
 - One clear sign of pride is when we get upset at another’s praise, promotion or progress.
- He focused more on his brother’s transgression than the _____.
 - When others decide to get right, if it is sincere, don’t linger on their wrongdoing. Focus on the bright future that lies ahead.
 - We would be good to spend less time complaining about what God does with others and consider what reasons God has to complain about _____!
- He didn’t consider the blessings of staying _____ (v. 31-32)