

Prodigals – Part 1  
The Father - Luke 15:11-24  
06/19/2022

- The Prodigal Father
- What does God think of you?
- What is God's opinion of you?
- Will profoundly impact how you see God, and how you see God will profoundly impact how you face God.
- If you see God as a harsh, disinterested judge, then you'll face him with hopelessness.
- If you see him as a demanding taskmaster, then you'll face him with fear
- If you see God as a loving Father, then you have a choice to make
- How you see God determines how you face him, and a lot of that depends on how you think God sees you.
- Jesus is giving us a picture of how the kingdom of God works
- He's illustrating the Gospel to us

*Luke 15:11- 24 (ESV) And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. "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! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' " 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. 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.' 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. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.*

**Prodigal Thoughts:**

1st) The Father's **HEARTBREAK**.

*Luke 15:12 (ESV) 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.*

- I wish you were dead
- I want what you have but I don't want you

- “I learned long ago never to wrestle in the mud with a pig. You get muddy, and besides, the pig likes it.”
- Bios which means life
- Jesus is giving us a picture of the Grace of God in action

2nd) The Father’s **REPUTATION**.

*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!’*

- How well the Father treated everyone
- His Father had a good reputation even amongst those who worked for him
- *But when he came to himself*
- What am I doing here?

*Blaise Pascal - “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”*

*Ecc. 3:11 - he has put eternity into man’s heart,*

3rd) The Father’s **ACCEPTANCE**.

*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.*

- Who do you know that's a long way off?

*Luke 15:21 (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.’*

- The kiss came before the confession
- The embrace came before the explanation
- The squeeze came before the speech

*Romans 5:8 (ESV) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- You don’t get good to go to God, you go to God and somehow, you get good
- The Grace of God is offensive!
- What would a lost son or daughter do if we respond with the prodigal love of the Father?
- They haven’t heard about the prodigal love of the Father
- Accepts us as we are, not as we should be, because we’ll never be as we should be
- Jesus doesn’t call us to a code of behavior.
- He calls us to a friendship.

4th) The Father's **PRODIGALNESS**.

*Luke 15:22-24 (ESV) 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. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.*

- Who's the real prodigal in the story?
- Prodigal means "exceedingly generous and lavishly wasteful."
- The father is also a prodigal in the story because the father is recklessly generous with his resources.

**Coming Home Gives Us:**

A) **IDENTITY**.

*Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him,*

B) **AUTHORITY**.

*and put a ring on his hand,*

C) **DIGNITY**.

*and shoes on his feet*

*1 John 3:1 (NIV) See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*

*Zeph. 3:17 (NIV) The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."*