

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

Why did Jesus tell stories?

What would Jesus say to people who accuse Him of visiting sinful people and eating with them?

Look at this picture. Do you remember what it shows? Let's read more about the lesson.



Prayer

Dear Father,

In this parable, You show me how much I am loved by You. I do not deserve Your love, yet You give it freely because of Your son's death on the cross. Help me to remember at all times that no matter what I have done wrong, You have freely forgiven me all my sins. Please give me now a spirit that is not jealous of this love and forgiveness, but one that makes me eager to share it with my neighbors, friends and family. In Jesus' name I ask this. Amen.

The Prodigal Son (The Wasteful Son) - Luke 15:11-32

Then 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 falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. {13} "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

{14} "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. {15} "Then 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 gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.



{17} "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! {18} 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, {19} "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"

{20} "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still 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 to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

{22} "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. {23} 'And bring the fatted calf here 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 older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. {26} "So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. {27} "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

{28} "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. {29} "So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. {30} 'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

{31} "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. {32} 'It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

Outer Aim - Jesus tells the parable of a foolish son who was lost and then found.

What the Lesson Tells Us - Answer the following questions about the lesson.

1. What wicked things did the younger son do?
2. Why did the son get hungry during the famine?

3. How was the famine a good thing for the son?
4. What did he decide to say to his father?
5. Why did the father have a party?
6. Why was the older son upset?
7. How did he show he was angry?
8. Why did the father go out to talk to the older son?
9. Who was the father in the parable?
10. Who were the sons?
11. What did Jesus mean by the younger son going away and wasting his goods with sinful living?
12. What did Jesus mean by having the father waiting when the son was still a long way away?
13. How should we feel about someone who repents?

Inner Aim - Jesus wants us to know we are forgiven and to forgive others.

What God Tells Us

1. How are we like the prodigal son?
2. How does God feel about us even though we have sinned?
3. How should we feel about other people and their sins?

Your Turn - Use the hymn verse and Bible passages to answer and discuss the following questions.

O Thou that hear'st when sinners cry
Tho' all my crimes before Thee lie,
Behold them not with angry look,
But blot their mem'ry from Thy book.

What does God do with the sins that are written down in His book? (Hymn 325 v. 1)

"I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner
who repents than over ninety-nine just persons
who need no repentance." Luke 15:7

Which makes God happy? (Luke 15:7)

"Who desires all men to be saved and to come to
the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4

What does God want for sinners? (1 Timothy 2:4)

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

What does God do with the sins we confess? (1 John 1:9)

Prayer

Psalm 103:2-5 - "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. " Amen.