

# The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

How did the Pharisees and Scribes show that they were self-righteous?

Which gives Jesus more joy, a sinner that repents or 99 that need no repentance?

## 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.'"

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

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### Recalling Details

1. What wicked things did the younger son do?
2. How did he do when the famine came?
3. How was the famine a good thing for the son?
4. What did he decide to say to his father?
5. Why was he happy?
6. What did he tell the older son?
7. Who did Jesus mean was the father in the parable?
8. Who did Jesus mean was the younger son?
9. Who did Jesus mean was the older son?

## What God Tells Us

1. How are we like the prodigal son?
2. What can we do with our sins every day?
3. How does God feel about us even though we have sinned?

**Passages** - The following passages, hymn verse and Petition will help you answer the questions that follow.

What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!  
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;  
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,  
Who would not know Him.        TLH #143 v. 4

2 Thessalonians 3:10 - "For even when we were  
with you, we commanded you this:  
if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."

Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but  
the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus  
our Lord."

1 John 4:19 - "We love Him because He first loved  
us."

### The Fifth Petition

"And forgive us our trespasses as we  
forgive those who trespass against us."

*What does this mean?*

We pray in this petition that our  
Father in heaven would not look on  
our sins or deny our prayer because  
of them. We are not worthy of things  
for which we are asking, neither  
have we deserved them. However  
we ask that our Father would by His  
grace give us what we ask; even  
though we sin often every day and  
indeed deserve nothing but  
punishment. We, too, will from our  
hearts gladly forgive and do good to  
all those who sin against us.

**Your Turn** - Use the hymn verse, passages and Petition to answer these questions.

1. What does this parable tell us about the direction we naturally would go? (Hymn 143 v.4)
2. How does God feel about working? (2 Th. 3:10)

3. How does God feel about the seriousness of the sins that the son committed? (Rom. 6:23)
  
4. Did the father forgive the son because of something inside him or because of something inside his son? (1 John 4:19)
  
5. How should we react differently than the older son? (5<sup>th</sup> Petition)

### Hymn - TLH #388

Just as I am, without one plea  
 But that Thy blood was shed for me  
 And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
 Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
 Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not  
 To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
 To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 Because Thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
 With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
 Fightings and fears within, without,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
 Has broken every barrier down.  
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

### 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 lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. " Amen.