

THE FATHER AND THE LOST SON

LUKE 15

Text:

Introduction:

This parable is an illustration of how Jesus receives sinners, loves them, forgives them, and takes them as God's children, and those who object to His receiving sinners.

Note how clearly the Lord Jesus pictures the heart attitude and state of a lost sinner.

1. THE PICTURE OF THE LOST SINNER.

A. Wanted what was not rightfully his at that time.

B. Took all without a word of thanks.

1. The lost always take that which the Father provides without a word of thanks.

a. Air

- b. Food
- c. Health
- d. Job
- e. Comforts
- f. Luxuries

C. Had to get away from the father.

(John 3:19-21) "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. {20} For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. {21} But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

Adam when he became a sinner wanted to hide from the Father.

D. All men that have never trusted Christ is in the "far country"

E. There are things that come from being in a far country.

1. Riotous Living

2. Wasted Substances

F. Results of riotous living and wasted substances.

1. Mighty famine

(Prov 13:15) "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard."

(Num 32:23) "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."

(Rom 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

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

G. No man gave unto him.

1. Where are the friends that helped him spend his money?

a. Where is the bartender when a man becomes a drunk?

2. THE PATH TO REPENTANCE

A. Came to himself

1. Saw things the way they are.

a. Saw that sin didn't bring happiness.

b. Saw that money doesn't make true friends.

1. Friends in sin are false friends.

c. Saw that sins pleasures didn't last.

2. Saw the goodness, kindness, and devoted love of his father.

a. Was grieved that he had offended his father.

b. Was worried that he had wronged his father.

3. One must acknowledge the wages of sin before he can fully appreciate the love & forgiveness of his father.

B. Came to a decision.

1. Decided to arise.
2. Decided to go.
3. Decided to confess.

3. THE PATH TO THE FATHER

A. Remember the theme of the chapter.

Luke 15:2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

1. This Man receiveth sinners. Notice:
 - a. The father faithfully waiting.
 - b. The father faithfully watching.
 - c. The father is faithfully willing to accept.

B. What the prodigal received in returning to the father.

1. The best robe.

- a. When we come to the Father we receive Christ robe of righteousness.
- 2. Put a ring on his hand.
 - a. A symbol of sonship, and we in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.
- 3. Put shoes on his feet
 - a. Pictures a change in his walk.
- 4. Has a feast at the father's house.
 - a. Represents what we will someday enjoy.

4. THE PUTRID ATTITUDE OF THE PHARISEES

- A. Was working with the wrong attitude.
 - 1. I serve thee. (29)
 - 2. Neither transgressed I. (29)
 - 3. Thou never gavest me a kid. (29)

B. Was wanting recognized for reasonable service

1. Was full of pride.

2. Was working for the wrong reason.

C. Was worse off spiritually than was his brother