

## Sin, Love & Pride Luke 15:1-10

### **We often study parables in our efforts to learn what Jesus taught**

Usually they are looked at for their main idea

Doing this though limits what we can gain from them

We need to approach parables with attitude of learning all they teach

Look beyond main theme or character to learn other valuable lessons to be found

The story of the "prodigal son" in **Luke 15** is a lesson of sin, love, forgiveness, envy, and arrogance.

### **The Prodigal Son And His Story (11-19)**

He felt chaffed by his Father's rules

He asked for his inheritance. **(11-12)**

Thought that the independence he would gain from his inheritance would give him true happiness

He couldn't see happiness in his Father's house

The same is often true of us. We feel confined by "unreasonable" curbs on our freedom

But Jesus is the only true source of freedom - **John 8:31-32,36**

He went into a far country and wasted his inheritance **(13-14)**

(This is the prodigal part – wastefully or recklessly extravagant)

He learned the lesson that true happiness doesn't come from material wealth. It is an illusion that slips away so easily

He had to slip all the way to the bottom

Often a man has to "hit rock bottom" before he can come to God

Finally, "he came to himself" **(15-19)**

He finally realized his condition

He had godly sorrow - **2Corinthians 7:10**

He resolved to go to his father and ask forgiveness. He would humble himself

He had a penitent heart - **Matthew 5:4; James 4:9**

### **The Loving Father's Story (20-24)**

The Father had been watching for the prodigal

The Father had seen him a great way off

Perhaps he recognized his son's walk

He had probably been watching for his return since he had left

Was constantly desirous of his son's return

This is the heavenly Father's attitude toward us as sinners - **2Peter 3:9**

He loved us so much that he marked the way home - **John 3:16**

The Father's reaction **(21-24)**

Came and fell at his Father's feet

Joy in Heaven over one sinner who repents **Luke 15:7**

Wasn't showing justice, he was showing mercy

Treated with honor even though he didn't deserve it

God is the Father of mercies - **2Corinthians 1:3; Psalms 33:22**

What would be the reaction of some fathers?

Our Father wants to receive us

### **The Arrogant Older Brother's Story (25-32)**

He was envious of his brother

He thought that his brother was receiving something that he didn't receive - **Galatians 5:19-21;**

**Romans 13:13**

He thought that the Father's love was earned by a record of service

Our record of service doesn't merit God's love - **Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:5; Matthew 20:1ff**

This attitude is identical to the Pharisees who thought that their good works bought salvation while publican and sinners weren't good enough for salvation - **Luke 18:11-12**

The Father doesn't love because the son merits love, but just because he is his son

The older brother was proud and haughty

Many of us are proud and haughty, thinking that we do God a favor by serving Him - **Psalms 101:5; Proverbs 16:18**

### **Often Several Lessons In One Parable**

The loving Father was waiting for His wayward son. He still waits, eager to forgive His erring children

GarrettSinclairGaryScott??