

in the parable? Why? In what ways have I been a prodigal? What has been the cost of my choices? Is there an area of my life in which I'm rebelling against something I know God wants me to do?

As Christians, we know our salvation is only based on the finished work of Christ. Yet we can sometimes allow forms of legalism and self-righteousness to creep into our own thinking. What are some ways in which I am a legalist?

How can we pray for one another this week?

Quotes to Ponder

The willingness of God to receive sinners is abundantly declared in Scripture; but in no place is it so amply, or so beautifully described as in the parable before us.

Charles Simeon

We are never so like God as when we rejoice at the salvation of sinners. We are never so like Satan as when we despise those who are thus converted and think ourselves superior to them.

James Montgomery Boice

Here is a God who runs and rejoices and embraces. Here is a God who not only accepts the dry-cleaned and the sanitized, but who runs to the filthy, wayward son who has turned his heart toward home.

Gary Inrig

Perhaps the biggest danger of my own righteousness is how it tempts me to live by works rather than grace. It is hard to say "I am unworthy" when I am desperately trying to prove my worth.

In order to receive grace we must, well, receive it. We must recognize it, know that we need it, and accept it. But to do this, we have to give up our delusion of perfection and self-sufficiency. We must also be willing to trust that God knows what He is doing.

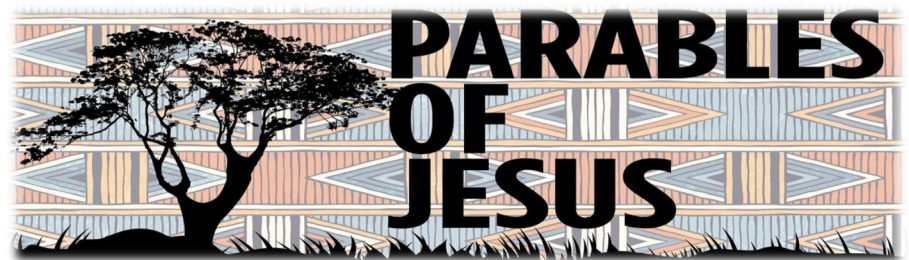
M. Lee-Barnewall

One of the hardest things in the world is to stop being the prodigal son without turning into the elder brother.

John Ortberg

For the scribes and Pharisees, the notion that someone like the Prodigal Son could ever find any kind of forgiveness or redemption was far beyond their comprehension.

John MacArthur



Parable of the Prodigal Son
Luke 15:11-32

Sermon
Notes

October 4, 2020

1. The Younger Son (12-20a)
2. The Father's Response (20b-24)
3. The Older Son (25-30)
4. The Father's Response (28b, 31-32)

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?
2. How comfortable were tax collectors and sinners in approaching Jesus (*Matthew 9:10; Luke 15:1-2*)? Why?
3. Why do you think so many self-admitted sinners became disciples of Jesus? Why do you think the self-righteous Pharisees resisted His message of salvation?
4. What point was Jesus making with this story? To whom is He trying to make it? Who seems to be the audience for this story?
5. What was the younger son's sin (*Luke 15:11-19*)? How is his repentance seen?
6. Do you think that the son was motivated to go home because his father was loving and gracious or because he was in crisis? Explain.
7. Compare the attitude of the young man when he left his father's home and when he returned. How had he changed?
8. What is the difference between regret and repentance? Define repentance biblically.
9. How did the father respond to the prodigal's return (*Luke 15:20-24*)?

What does this teach us about God?

10. The father didn't tell his son to clean up and then put on the robe; he put it on him as he was. What does this say about our salvation experience?
11. What was the older son's sin (*Luke 15:28-30*)?
12. If the older brother's heart had been right, he would have responded differently. How do you think you would have responded in this situation?
13. Why would the older son regard himself as a slave rather than a son (*Luke 15:29*)?
14. How did the father respond to the older son (*Luke 15:31-32*)?

What does this teach us about God?

15. Why does Jesus leave this story unresolved?
16. Are we usually more patient with prodigals or hypocrites? Why?

Reflection Questions: Do I identify more with the younger or older son