

The Parables Of Jesus

Lesson 12

The Parable Of The Prodigal Son (Lk. 15:11-32)

Where & When:

- During *The Perean Ministry* (cp. Jn. 10:40-42)
 - It is a little more than 3 months until Jesus' crucifixion

Occasion Producing The Parable:

- Jesus comes under intense scrutiny from the Jews for associating with "sinners" (vv. 1-2)
 - He had experienced this earlier in Galilee (Mt. 9:10-13)
- Jesus tells 3 parables to emphasize the value of "lost things" (vv. 3-32)
 - *The Parable Of The Lost Sheep* (vv. 3-7)
 - *The Parable Of The Lost Coin* (vv. 8-10)
 - *The Parable Of The Lost Son* (vv. 11-32)

Questions:

- 1) How does the parable open? (vv. 11-12) When does the younger son carry out his plans? (v. 13a)
- 2) What typical human behavior does this reflect? (Rom. 1:21-22, 28a)
- 3) Why didn't the father stop his son from leaving? What does this represent (Rom. 1:24a, 26a, 28b)
- 4) What happened to this "enterprising" young man who was ready to tackle the world? (v. 13b) What cold & harsh realities set in on him? (v. 14) What does this tell us about the world we view as an "opportunistic land?"
- 5) From v. 12, what was the one place he didn't want to be? After v. 14, what place do you suppose occupied the majority of his thoughts? What will this do for him? (Rom. 2:4)

The Parables Of Jesus

Lesson 12

- 6) What was he forced to do? (v. 15) *[Overall context of Lk. 15 suggests he was Jewish]* At this point, how does the parable illustrate the truthfulness of Prov. 13:15?

- 7) Just how bad did it get for this young man? (v. 16) *Thought question:* be able to connect v. 13b with v. 16. (cp. Prov. 14:20; 17:17; 23:5)

- 8) *Thought question:* once things got bad for him, what other "options" did he have to survive?

- 9) What was the only "option" that made sense? (v.17a) How does this illustrate what has to happen to every "prodigal?" (cp. 2 Tim. 2:25-26) What was the first sensible thought he had since he left home? (v. 17b)

- 10) What will genuine repentance lead one to do...no matter how filthy a "hog pen" he is in? (vv. 18-20a; cp. 2 Cor. 7:8-11) How true were the words he intended to say to his father?

- 11) What was happening unbeknownst to him? (v. 20b) What does this represent? (2 Pet. 3:9)

- 12) What emotional scene is described in v. 20c? (cp. vv. 7, 10) *Thought question:* what kind of "reception" didn't this young man get from his father?

The Parables Of Jesus

Lesson 12

- 13) What begins to happen in v. 21? How did it go re: his "planned speech?" (vv. 22-24)

- 14) The scene shifts to who? (v. 25a) *[Note: we believe this is the real focus of the parable...the "prodigal" who stayed home (cp. vv. 1-2)]*

- 15) What does the older son notice, and how does he react to it? (vv. 25b-28a)

- 16) Who had to intervene? (v. 28b) How did the older son respond to his father? (vv. 29-30)

- 17) Is there any truthfulness in his words? What was his problem? (cp. Gal. 6:1) *[Also your notes from Lesson 2.]* What do you notice about the way he references his younger brother? (v. 30a)

- 18) Did the father agree with his older son on anything? (v. 31) Yet, what was his final attempt to encourage him? (v. 32)

- 19) Application: considering Acts 2:22-23, 36-38, how do we know that can anyone "go home again?"

- 20) What is the main lesson from this parable? What are some "secondary" lessons?