Prodigal Son Parable

Gary Wilemon · Luke 15:11–32

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus was telling these parables to make this clear to the Pharisees and the scribes that this is the attitude that God has toward those that are lost.
- It is to show them the attitude that God has toward those who are lost, the attitude, therefore, that Jesus had toward those that were lost, and the attitude that they ought to have toward those who were lost.

1 This Younger Son Wants to Receive His Inheritance

Luke 15:11–16

- This younger man doesn't want to wait until his father dies. He wants it now.
- In the parable, we don't see the father objecting to this, do we? What he does is he does exactly what his son asks him to do.
- He squanders his inheritance. Much of it, apparently in sinful living.
- He has to become a hired hand who goes into the swine pit to feed pigs. Now, for a young Jewish boy, that'd be just about the worst job he could find.

2 He Came to Himself

Luke 15:17–19

- This is maybe the most important thing he realizes, is that something has to change. He's got to do something.
- I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son.
- I have sinned. I need to come back to my father, and I need to acknowledge that I have sinned and I need to change my ways. I don't deserve forgiveness, but I'm going to ask for it.

3 There's No Searching Going On in This Parable

- It was a sheep. It was a coin. This is a young man. And a young man gets to decide for himself whether he's going to stay at his father's house or whether he's not.
- The father in this parable is God. And this is how he treats each one of us, isn't it? He lets us choose.
- He had the right to choose. And God gives us that right. It is one of the most precious gifts he gives us the power to choose.

4 Father Receives Him Back Enthusiastically

Luke 15:20–24

- Father didn't go searching for him, but he was watching. He did see his son coming. And he receives him back enthusiastically.
- He is so pleased. He rejoices. He is so happy that we have come to ourselves.
- No matter what sin we commit, no matter how bad we may misbehave, and sometimes we can go crazy. Our father will take us back.
- He will do it enthusiastically. If we will have this young man's attitude.

5 Did He Get Off Too Easy?

- He had to face some consequences. He surely did lose his inheritance. That's a consequence.
- When I sin and I come to myself, I don't get the consequences of my sin either when the father forgives me. The consequences of sin is death, is it not?
- How can we possibly withhold forgiveness from someone who sins against us? As long as they turn away from that sin.
- We surely cannot withhold a forgiveness in light of the fact that we've been forgiven for so much.

6 There's Another Brother in This Family

Luke 15:25–32; Luke 15:1–2

- The older brother's reaction is he gets angry. He won't even go into the house.
- This son of yours, notice he doesn't call him his brother, this son of yours has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, and you killed the fattened calf for him.
- We have to celebrate because your brother has come back safe. He was lost, he's found, he was dead, and now he's alive.
- When one that is lost is found, we need to be willing to celebrate and rejoice that has happened.
- We should seek, we should seek earnestly, and when we're able to help one who's lost become found, we should rejoice.

THE CHALLENGE

So right now, while you're thinking seriously about this, while the love of the Father for those who come to Him in repentance is right in front of your eyes, why not right now take advantage of this opportunity?

MY NOTES