

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON, Part 1

Date: September 21, 2025 - Luke 15:11-32

Central Idea: Repentance opens our eyes to see God clearly.

Introduction:

The parable of the lost (or prodigal) son brings the three parables on things lost to a climax. The two truths which this chapter so powerfully illustrates are man's sin and God's love. Our sin is not determined by our sensibility of it, and God's love is not dependent upon our acknowledgement of it. All men sin, and God loves all men. These are the two facts which make the gospel necessary and possible. The three stages to mark in the prodigal's story are the going, the absence, and the return.

1. Sin Destroys Our Lives, vv. 11-16.
2. Repentance Restores, vv. 17-21.
3. God Is a Loving Father, vv. 22-23.
4. Miracle of the New Birth, v. 24.
5. Self-righteousness Exposed, vv. 25-30.
6. Relationship Restored, vv. 31-32.

Conclusion:

Repentance brings joy.

Repentance brings worth.

Repentance brings pleasure.

Repentance brings life.

All of us need to come back to the Father. Those who have left home as well as those who never seemed to have left home all need to be pursued, loved, and brought home. Do you think your heart most resembles the Father, the prodigal son, or the older brother?