

## The Parable of the Prodigal Son

(Luke 15:11-32)

### Introduction:

1. Ills. Of Eliam (2 Samuel 11:3).
2. Story of Joseph through the eyes of his brothers (Genesis 42:21-22;44:16).
3. We often miss the real storyline:
  - a. The patience of Job - how about the Patience of God?
  - b. Jonah - a great fish or how about a Great God?
  - c. Ills. Pentecost - We can eat pork!
4. The parable that I have been assigned tonight has been dubbed, "The Parable of the Prodigal Son."
5. But I think this misses the headline.
  - a. There are three parables in this chapter.
  - b. The focus of all three is on the one who recovered that which was lost.
  - c. By missing the headline, we always focus on the lessons learned by and about the sons, and not the main lessons about the father.
6. This parable would better be known as "The Parable of the Loving Father."
7. As I present this lesson, the sons play a minor role, only to emphasize the character of the Father, on which we will focus.

### I. God Allows People to Make Bad Choices

- A. Do you understand the audacity of this request?
- B. God allows him to walk away.
- C. Consider Romans 1:24,26,28).
- D. When we suffer at our own hands; when we hit "rock bottom," we sometimes come to ourselves.
- E. Church discipline is one of God's ways to make the wayward experience the consequences of their mistake, yet churches who fail to discipline, soften the consequences God wants them to experience.

### II. God Runs

- A. Ills. 1-2-3 the Devil's after me.
- B. He ran to his son when he was a long way off (Luke 15:20).
- C. He had "compassion" on him - "fell on his neck" and didn't make coming back hard.

- D. Ills. "No one responds alone."
- E. As the children of God, we should reflect our Father.

**III. God Rejoices & Restores**

- A. (Luke 15:22-24).
- B. God treats us better than we deserve - Amazing Grace!
- C. (Micah 7:18).
- D. (Luke 15:10).
- E. This demonstrates our value.

Conclusion:

1. This parable of the Prodigal Son, or maybe better stated, "The Loving Father" should remind us of these two truths:
  - a. God is good.
  - B. God loves us.
2. Why would we not want to serve a God like him?