

Adult Bible Class

THE PRODIGAL SONS

10/20/2013

Timing:

- A. 09:30 -- Prayer (2)
- B. 09:32 -- Intro (2)
- C. 09:34 -- Scripture (3.5)
- D. 09:38 -- Parable Video (22)
- E. 10:00 -- Class Comments
- F. 10:10 -- App Video (4 minimum, or 6, or 12)

At a preacher workshop in the early 80's, way before the Berlin wall came down, I heard a preacher propose that if he were going into Russia where owning a Bible could land you in jail for years, if he were told that he could take only one chapter with him, which chapter would it be? Genesis 1? 1 Cor 13? Matthew 5? He allowed that those were all great chapters, and taught crucial lessons, but that if here were allowed to take only one chapter to a people who did not know God, he would take Luke 15. He believed that for a people who had "thrown God away," that Luke 15 best explains the type of Father we have.

What is in Luke 15 that would cause the preacher to say this?

LUKE 15:1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins[Ⓜ] and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Parable of the Lost Son (NIV on the left, and **THE MESSAGE** on the right)

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he

¹¹⁻¹² Then he said, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.'

¹²⁻¹⁶ "So the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He

went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corncoobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ “That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

²⁰⁻²¹ “When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

²²⁻²⁴ “But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

²⁵⁻²⁷ “All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

²⁸⁻³⁰ “The older brother stalked off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

³¹⁻³² “His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

Now we will watch a 21-minute video which re-casts this parable in modern terms.

After the video we will need six people to share with us *what in the video came across to you more clearly than ever before?* What dialog, setting, event, facial expression, ... did you think really helped you understand something about the parable that perhaps you had not thought about before?

There is also a 13-minute Application Video that makes some particularly excellent points; depending on how your comments go, we may watch some of that video as well.

Application Video Clips: (Priority, if time: RED, YELLOW, OTHER)

1. Two Sons (1:45) – Both are lost, and both need the Father’s love.
 - a. Tim Keller shows us two ways that we deal with God
 - i. Our own efforts, self-righteousness, Moralists, Rules/Regulations
 - ii. Run from him, sinners, Relativists
2. Old vs Young (3:22) – Characteristics of Younger brother, then the Older brother
 - a. Younger
 - i. Threw out Truth and Objective Reality
 - ii. To gain personal peace, pleasure, fulfillment -- BENEFIT ME!
 - b. Older
 - i. Moralist: Embraces traditional reality, tradition, duty. It’s about how I perform.
 - ii. Doesn’t obey God from Love, but in order to Control God. (“I slaved away; you owe me!”)
 - iii. Bottom line: Doesn’t want to KNOW God any more than the Moralist does.
3. In Common (2:01) – Characteristics the brothers have In Common
 - a. Younger – Unchurched, dechurched often. Minimizes and marginalizes God’s law, retreats into agnosticism for protection. Reaps consequences.
 - b. Older – Just as lost. Lost in own goodness. Duty, not Delight. Predicts God vs. Knowing God.
4. Mostly Older (1:55) – In church, we are mostly Older Brothers
 - a. Joyless, mechanical, raised eyebrows to weak, lack of compassion, lack of assurance of love.
 - b. Biggest problem – Doesn’t know true condition. Clueless. Need to repent of self-righteousness.
5. Two Ways (3:03) – Jesus shows us Two Ways which FAIL.
 - a. Irony – only ONE of the brothers responds. Why? He hit rock bottom. Took a risk in going back home.

b. Tragic – Older brother does not know he NEEDS the Father.

6. Conclusion (1:22) – Wrap up, with a Great Conclusion, which begs the question...

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A PARTY GOING ON?

Are you inside... or outside?