The Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

- **In the Book of Matthew 13:10, Jesus began using parables to teach about the kingdom of heaven.**
- **According to Mark 4:34, "Jesus did not say anything to them without using a parable and when He was alone with His disciples He would explain what He meant."**
- **Purpose: To assist us in growing in our understanding by exploring these divine truths found Christ teaching.**
- **Objective: To teach us what they mean and how they relate to our present and future life in Christ Jesus.**
- **Goal: To allow the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and draw us closer to Jesus Christ.**

- **<u>The Parables that have been taught</u>**
- **The Parable of the Sower. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)**
- **The Parable of the Wheat and The Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)**
- **The Parable of the Mustard Seed. (Matthew 13:31-32)**
- **The Parable of the Leaven (Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21)**
- **The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44**
- **The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price" (Matthew 13:45-46)**
- **The Parable of the Dragnet (Matthew 13:47-51)**
- **The Parable of the Householder (Matthew 13:51-53)**
- **The Parable of the Wineskins (Luke 5:34-39, Matthew 9:14-17, Mark 2:18-22)**
- **The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:12-26)**
- **The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)**
- **The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)**
- **The Parable of the Pompous Guest (Luke 14:1-14)**

4. **You will see yourself through one or more of these parables.**

The Parable of the Lost Son
Luke 15:11-32

- **Luke gives three of the most recognized and beloved parables in the Bible. These three parables reveal three amazing things about God: (Luke 15:1-32)**

1. **God's love for the lost sinner. (vs. 1-7)**
2. **God searching for the lost sinner. (vs. 8-10)**
3. **God rejoicing for the lost sinner that repents and returns home. (vs. 11-32)**

- **Today we will begin to study and examine all three of these powerful parables and the lessons we can learn and grow from them. (Luke 15:1-7)**

- **<u>Jesus Christ hears the accusations from the Pharisees and Scribes</u> (vs. 1-2)**

1. **The parable of the lost coin – "The coin was lost in the house." (vs. 8-10)**
2. **The parable of the lost coin (vs. 8) – "Jesus highlights the great value the woman has for the lost coin.**

- **The woman takes great measures to search until she finds the lost coin in the house.**

3. **The "lost" represents an unbeliever, sinner, or backslider that is lost, missing, or has gone astray.**
4. **The word "lost" means to perish, to stray away, to be spiritually separated, destitute, spiritually blind to truth, lack spiritual direction, and it implies being without God and His eternal salvation.**

- **Jesus responds to the Pharisees and Scribes accusations with a third parable. (vs. 11-32)**
- **The parable of the Lost Son or Prodigal Son reveals the unfailing love and compassion of God (vs. 11-32). <u>This parable teaches us (2) two things about God</u>:**

1. **God's love still reaches out to those who rebel, reject and refuse to live and serve Him.**
2. **God is able to restore and forgive those who repent of their sins no matter their state or situation they find themselves in.**

- **The Parable of the Lost Son – "The Prodigal Son". (vs. 11-32)**

1. **The Younger Son: "Inheritance and Rebellion" (vs. 11-19)**
2. **The Father: "Love and Compassion" (vs. 20-24)**
3. **The Older Son: "Jealousy and Judgmental" (vs. 25-32)**

- **The Parable of the Lost Son (Prodigal Son) (vs. 11-12)**

- **The parable of the lost son – "The Younger Son chose to leave home." (vs. 11-19)**

1. **The Lost Son's request – "He wanted his portion of goods." (vs. 12)**

- **In other words, "Give me my inheritance." (vs. 12)**
- **The Father divided the estate between the older son and the younger son. (vs. 12)**
- **The Younger Son would receive one-third and the older brother two-thirds of a father's estate when the father died.**
- **The Younger Son wanted his inheritance now and not after his father died.**
- **The Younger Son's request from his father was both his independence and freedom to live and do as he want.**

2. **The Lost Son's rebellion – "He wasted his possessions with prodigal living." (vs. 13)**

- **The word "prodigal" means a life or lifestyle that is wasteful, reckless, careless, riotous, extravagant, lavish, without restraint and squander away.**
- **The Lost Son's rebellion reveals his character and motives.**

1) **He wanted to live life without the authority and control of his father.**
2) **He wanted to live out life under his own rules and terms without the guidance of a loving father.**

3) He wanted no accountability and responsibility that came with his father estate.

3. The Lost Son's rejection – "He rejected the father's love and care for him." (vs. 12)

1) The Father gave his son the right and freedom to choose.

- The lost son had freewill to choose his father or the possessions (worldly goods, money, and possessions).

2) The Father gave to his son willingly and withheld no portion of his possessions.

- The lost son selfishly thought of himself. He gave no thought of his father, his character, his legacy, his history, his kingdom, his country, his goods and his name.

3) The Lost Son (prodigal) choose to live life under his own authority and rules without any interference or guidance from his father.

- The lost son gave no thought toward the consequences from his poor decisions. "You can make the choice but you can't choose the consequences."
- The lost son wanted to do as he wanted with his life and his portion of goods (money, possession, inheritance).
- Just like the Lost Son (prodigal), many in the world and in the church continue to be wasteful and reckless with life, gifts, talents (abilities), money, possessions and time.

4. The Lost Son's relocation – "He gathered up all he had and journeyed to a far country." (vs. 13)

1) He left his Father and went to a distant country. (vs. 13)

- The distant country was different from his father's country.
- The lost son was known both within and outside the home in his father's country.
- The lost son was unknown by all in the distant country. Nobody cared about who he was, where he was from or his purpose for being there.
- The lost son chose a distant country to get far away from the rules, authority and interference from his father.

- **The lost son chose a distant country to get far away from the requirements and responsibility of being a part his family.**
- **The lost son chose a distant country where the people, the living (lifestyle), and the resources were all foreign to him, but appealed to the lifestyle he desired to live.**
- **He was willing to leave behind the love and care of his father.**
- **He was willing to leave behind the safety and protection of his father.**
- **He was willing to leave behind the resources and service of his father.**
- **This parable is so powerful and relatable to all of us who ran from God's love, purpose and calling.**

2) The Lost Son (prodigal) wasted his life and resources upon worldly living. (vs. 13)

- **The lost son wasted all of his father's resources upon prodigal living.**
- **The lost son was living a careless and reckless life of sin and lustful pleasures. (Galatians 5:19-21, Titus 3:3, 1 John 2:15-17)**
- **The lost son had no intentions of ever returning back to his father's country.**

5. The Lost Son's recklessness – "He was in want because he unwisely spent all that had." (vs. 14)

1) He <u>spent</u> all that he had. (vs. 14)

- **The lost son wasted away all his inheritance and is now left with nothing.**
- **The lost son misused and abused the inheritance that was entrusted to him by his father.**

2) He <u>lacked appreciation</u> for what he had.

- **The lost son should have shown more love, honor, and respect toward his father.**
- **The lost son should have been mindful and aware of all the sacrifice that his father had made for him.**
- **The lost son should have been more grateful and thankful toward his father.**

- **The lost son rebelled against the only person who truly loved him unconditionally. (Mark 8:36-37, Romans 6:21-23)**

3) He <u>suffered greatly</u> where he was. (vs. 14)

- **The lost son suffered greatly due to his rebellious decision to live his life outside the will of his father.**
- **The words "severe famine" mean a drought that was serious, extreme or mighty in the land or country.**
- **The "severe famine" caused extreme poverty, scarcity of food, crop failure, destroyed natural resources and basic necessities were lacking in that country.**
- **The word "famine" can represent both spiritual and physical desolation or judgement.**
- **Famine is used by God to bring divine judgement in order to discipline and bring correction to his children who have wandered away from the truth of His Word. (Matthew 24:1-7, Amos 8:11, Revelation 18:18, Jeremiah 14:12-18, Ezekiel 5:16-17)**
- **Famine is used by God to warn and gain the attention of his children or rebellious nation to turn their hearts back to Him. (Psalm 9:15-17, Proverbs 14:34)**
- **Famine can symbolize judgement, trials, tribulations, suffering, storms of life, life crisis, hardship, and test of faith. <u>It should draw a person either back to God or closer to God</u>.**
- **Spiritual famine can describe spiritual drought, a dry place, and stagnation in their life. The person heart has turn away from God and the truth of His Word.**
- **If the person chooses not to repent, it can lead to a life that remain unfulfilled unproductive, unfruitful, isolated and disconnected from Jesus Christ and His Body (Body of Believers, The Church).**
- **Their spiritual life becomes barren, lack spiritual fruit, unproductive and unresponsive to the Spirit of God and His Word. (John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23)**
- **Their spiritual senses become dull toward the Spirit of God. The word "dull" means sluggish, slothful, lazy, lack attention toward, or stupid. (Hebrews 5:5-11)**

- **They become easily ensnared by Satan's deceptive practices, traps, pitfalls, lies, evil schemes and plots. (John 8:42-44, Ephesians 4:11-16, 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, 11:13-15, 1 Peter 5:5-11)**

4) He began to <u>want</u>." (vs. 14)

- **The word "want" means to fall short, fail, lack sustainability, suffer need, to be depleted of resources, worse off, and to be deficient.**
- **The lost son is now left to face his trial, tribulation, and test without his father. He needs help but has no one in the world to turn to.**

6. The Lost Son reduced to humiliation – "He has to join with a citizen of that country and work for him." (vs. 15-16)

1) He is reduced to forced labor. (vs. 15)

- **(vs. 15) – "He is sent into his fields to feed swine (pigs or hogs).**
- **The word "joined" means to glue, to stick, cleave, or keep company with. (1 Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 13:20, 22:24-25, Psalm 1:1-6)**
- **The word "enslaved" means to bound, bind, oppress, hold captive, bondage, shackled, suppressed, and confine. (John 8:34-36, Romans 6:15-23, 1 Peter 2:18-22, Galatians 5:1, 7-9)**

2) He lost his freedom and independence. (vs. 15)

- **The lost son enjoyed freedom with his father and his own country, but now he's a slave to another man and his country.**
- **The lost son sought refuge with a man in a distant country. "<u>Many today, still seek refuge away from God</u>."**
- **The lost son's sin and rebellion led to his downfall and humiliation.**

3) He was desperate and destitute. (vs. 16)

- **(vs. 16) – "And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything."**
- **The lost son (prodigal) was so poor and hungry that he was willing to eat "carob pods" (long edible sweet fruit from the Carob tree) which was used to feed pigs, donkeys, and horses.**
- **The lost son (prodigal) had no one who was willing to give him some food to satisfy his hunger, to help him, or come to his aid.**

7. The Lost Son's Reality – "But when he came to himself…" (vs. 17)

1) The Lost or Prodigal Son came to himself implies – "He began to reflect on the truth, came to his senses, snapped out of his insanity or the reality of his foolish behavior.

2) The Lost Son (Prodigal) began to reflect on both his present and future state or situation. (vs. 17)

- **(vs. 17) – "But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and enough to spare…"**
- **The Father and His country – represent The Heavenly Father and His Heavenly Kingdom. (Luke 12:22-34, Matthew 6:5-13, John 14:1-6, 17:20-26, Romans 8:14-17, Psalm 23:1-6)**
- **The Father's hired servants – represents God's true and faithful servants. (Matthew 25:14-30, Mark 8:34-38, Luke 16:10-13, 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Hebrews 6:9-12)**
- **The Father's provisions – represents God's ability to provide or supply the both the spiritual and physical needs of His children. (Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 34:10-19, 37:25, Philippians 4:19)**
- **The Lost Son – represents a backslidden believer. (Proverbs 14:12-14, Psalm 85:8, Hebrews 10:38-39, Galatians 4:8-9)**
- **It is a person that gave his or her life to Jesus Christ, but have fallen back into sin, gone wayward, strayed away, rebelled, and walking disobedient to the will and purposes of God.**
- **It describes the spiritual condition of a believer that has turned his or her heart away from God due to sin and disobedience.**

3) The Lost Son (Prodigal) began to reflect on both his present and future state or situation. (vs. 17)

- **(vs. 17) – "And I perish with hunger!"**
- **The Lost Son (Prodigal) was lacking both the spiritual and physical nourishments needed to sustain him. (Matthew 5:6, 6:30-34, 11:28-30, Luke 4:1-13, John 4:1-15, 6:22-35, 44-65, Revelation 21:1-8)**
- **"Hungry or starving to death" – represents both his spiritual (eternal) and physical (earthly) situation.**
- **"Hungry or starving" – He was empty, lonely, unhappy, humiliated, destitute, lost, lacking purpose, unfulfilled, or a life void of true meaning and significance.**

- **Jesus Christ places our spiritual need above our physical need. He is the only one who can satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst.**
- **A person is given the free will to choose Jesus Christ and a life of love, joy, peace, in this life and life eternal in the presence of God forever. (John 10:10, John 14:27, 16:33)**