

“The Parables of Jesus: The Parable of the Prodigal Son”
Luke 15:11-32

- The parable is a response to this: *“And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” (Luke 15:2)*
 - *“People who did not keep the Law were called by the Pharisees, “People of the Land.” A Pharisee was forbidden, so far as it was possible, to do any business with, be a guest of, to trust him or entrust him with anything, or have any contact with a “Person of the Land.” (William Barclay)*
- The parable can be summed up with this statement: *“There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10)*
 - The Father sent the Son into the world to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10) because the Father has great joy in saving the lost. The Father accomplishes this task through the Bride of Christ, the Church (Matthew 28:18-20).
- The Younger Prodigal Son:
 - *“Father give me the share of the property that is coming to me....”*
 - This statement, culturally, is the son saying, *“Father, I wish you were dead.”* The younger son would have received $\frac{1}{3}$ of the property and the older son would have received $\frac{2}{3}$ of the property (Deuteronomy 21:17). This request would have become great dishonor to his father.
 - The younger son, a Jew, went into a Gentile area (Genesis 12:1-3) and squandered what his father gave him instead of stewarding what he gave him, again bringing dishonor to his father (Exodus 20:12; Exodus 21:17).
 - The younger son believed that life without his father was supreme to life with his father. It was the deceitfulness of riches (Matthew 13:22) and the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13) that was his great undoing (1 Corinthians 6:12).
 - As a Jew, there would have been few things as humiliating as working for a Gentile, that would have made him unclean (Acts 10:28 & 11:3), and taking care of pigs, an unclean animal, making him unclean (Leviticus 11:7-8).
 - He remembered the kindness and generosity of his father, and realized he was better off as a servant of his father (Deuteronomy 24:14-15), than to be free to do as he pleases. He was ready to humble himself (Matthew 23:12; James 4:10). *“Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.” Luke 15:18*
- The Graceful Father:
 - *“His father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”*
 - Deuteronomy 21:18-21; Deuteronomy 27:16; Matthew 18:23-26
 - Culturally it would have been expected for the father to maintain his honor and refuse to see his sinful son. The son would sit at the gate of the village, in shame and disgrace until the father would choose to see him. Then his son would have to pay full restitution before the father would receive him back. Then, and only then, could he receive the father’s favor.
 - Instead the father took on the son’s shame. He ran to him, which was shameful culturally, embracing someone who was unclean physically would have been shameful, and kissing his son publicly based on his actions would have been shameful (Colossians 2:13-15 comes to life).

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Worship: Rock of Ages (The Modern Post) All Glory Be to Christ (Kings Kaleidoscope)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- He was given the patriarchal robe, publicly identifying him as his son. He was given the signet ring, giving him full familial rights and privilege, and was given shoes for his feet, changing his status from slave to son. The fatted calf would have been enough food for the whole village. He publicly took on the cost of the shame of the son so that the son would be received without price (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).
- The Older Prodigal Son:
 - Galatians 2:15-16; Romans 3:20
 - The older son lived to celebrate what he had done, not live to celebrate what the father had done.
 - His father lovingly pleaded with him to come and celebrate the grace of the father, but because of his self-righteousness he couldn't celebrate the grace of God.
 - The son believed that he was righteous and wanted to celebrate with other self-righteous people, not the family.
 - He was so focused on his brother's sin he couldn't see how sinful he was. He didn't appreciate the grace and goodness of the father that had always been given to him. Everything the son had was the father's. (Romans 9:4-5).