

Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

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Prodigal:

- Definition: lacking restraint, “reckless spendthrift” - having spent everything
- People headed in the wrong direction or who have walked away from the things of God
- People living life in dysfunction, reckless abandon and open destructive rebellion
- It is a battle of the wills, their will and God’s will; It is a spiritual issue

Principles from the Parable of the Prodigal

- Vs. 12- Prodigals have a “Give Me” mentality.
- Vs. 14 - Famine represents God’s grace to get their attention.
- VS. 17 - No one gave him a thing...then he came to his senses.
- VS. 18 – He realized his sin against God and his father.
- Vs. 18 - He was repentant and remorseful.
- VS. 19 - The Father was watching and waiting for his return.

Practical Help from the Parable of the Prodigal

- Perspective: Bring your “A” game for this assignment.
- Communication: Let your words be **A**ffirming, **B**rief and **C**onsistent
- Boundaries: Do not rescue. Do not enable. Do not excuse.
- Assistance: Do not get in the pig pen and drag him home. Ending the prodigal journey is a decision ONLY the prodigal can make.

Prayer Strategy for Prodigals

- Pray for God’s Providence: God’s Divine care, control and guidance over a life, situation and circumstances; making one ready for future events.
- Fasting and Praying – Pray scripture
- Galatians 6:9 – Do not loose heart, for in due time you will reap!
- Joel 2:25 – “I will restore to you the years the locus have eaten.”
- Hosea 2:15 – “I will turn the valley of trouble into a Gateway of hope”

SCRIPTURES FOR DEALING WITH A PRODIGAL

- Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. – Psalm 27:14
- Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken. - Psalm 55:22
- Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, “Give them up!” and to the south, “Do not hold them back.” Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth. - Isaiah 43:5-6
- Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore I wait for him.” The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. Lamentations 3:22-26
- And he went on backsliding in the way of his heart. I have seen his ways, and will heal him. – Isaiah 57:17-18
- Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for your work shall be rewarded, says the Lord and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is a hope for your future.....that your children shall come back to their own border. – Jeremiah 31:16-17
- Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot be saved nor his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. – Isaiah 59:1
- Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart. – Psalms 27:14
- When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flames scorch you.
- Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God, I will uphold you with my Righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10