

THE BURDENS OF THE LOST

Sunday, February 22, 2025 -- MISSIONS SUNDAY Part 1 -- Senior Pastor Andrew Coleman

LUKE 15:11-32

'THE PRODIGAL SON'

English Standard Version (ESV)

11 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. **12** And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. **13** Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. **14** And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16** And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ **20** And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21** And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22** But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23** And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. **27** And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ **28** But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, **29** but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ **31** And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

BACKGROUND OF THIS IMPORTANT PARABLE :

- 1) This is the most _____ of Jesus's parables.
- 2) Often called 'the parable of the prodigal son'. (prodigious = '_____') think: '_____'
- 3) But it really a story about two _____ sons and their loving, _____ father.
- 4) The religious leaders could see the story exactly, but they were _____ to its real spiritual meaning.
- 5) Though simple, its meaning is perhaps the richest and most _____ of Jesus's parables.

1) Notice the (within themselves) of the LOST. vs 12

And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.'

The wicked know no _____. In our lost state, we are capable of _____.

Zephaniah 3:5; Proverbs 21:29; Jeremiah 6:15; Eccl 26:25; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 1:28-32

2) Notice the _____ (to the family/community) of the LOST. vs 13

Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

- He would have had to sell his father's property -- perhaps representing generations of family wealth.
(only fools throw away a positive family heritage)
- He wanted to get away from _____.
- He wanted to get away from God's people and go to a gentile/pagan/godless country.
- He would blow it all on prostitutes, _____ friends and _____.
Hebrews 11:25 'the passing pleasures of sin for a season'

3) Notice the _____ of the LOST. vs 14

And when he had spent everything,

SANITY is that which is *sensible, sound-minded, logical, rational, advisable, responsible.*

INSANITY is the opposite of all those things.

Mark it down! WILL MAKE YOU _____.

4) Notice the _____ of the LOST. vs 14-16

14 *And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.*

Eventually, the music stops, _____, the bottom falls out and the top caves in.

PROVERBS 14:12

*There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way to death.*

5) Notice the _____ of any WICKED HEART. vs 25-32

Whether in wild _____ OR self-righteous _____ a wicked heart is miserable.

There is only _____ **SOLUTION** to our wicked, miserable hearts... _____.

The only way to get a new heart is through our Lord Jesus Christ...

EZEKIEL 36:26-27

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____.
The old has passed away; behold, the _____.*

Do you have a heart that is _____ in sin OR _____ in God's grace?

Do you care that there are _____ who are stuck in their sin?