

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE
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#8 - Series on Parables

**“Parable of the Lost Sons and
The Loving Father Part 1”**

Luke 15:11-32

Remember the setting of this parable in Vs 1-3. The Pharisees were the religious upper crust of that day who were legalist and didn't like Jesus' association with the sinners of their day as we see in V-1. Now remember that this is one parable with three different pictures in it.

Last Sunday we studied the first two pictures of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin in vs. 1-10. Now today we are going to examine the third picture of this parable that is called the parable of the “Prodigal Son”. I am reminded of the animated film – “Finding Nemo”.

All three parts of the parable in Luke 15 make the same basic point. In each story something is lost, sought, found, and celebrated. This story is about two lost sons. First, it includes the story of the *scandalous younger son* (15:11-24). The other son was the *sanctimonious older son* (vs.25-32)

We call this story “The Parable of the Prodigal Son” (the word *prodigal* means “wasteful”), but it could also be called “**The Parable of the Loving Father**”. Note in the story the three experiences of the younger son.

I. REBELLION - he went to the far country (Vs. 11-16).

It was as though he were saying to his father, “**I wish you were dead!**” “The far country” is not necessarily a distant place, because “the far country” **exists first of all in our hearts.**

Notice with me the . . . **Five Steps to the Pigeon**

1. He was selfish
2. He acted hastily
3. He wasted everything he had
4. He separated himself from every relationship that was important to him
- 5; He made a long string of bad decisions

So first we see his - **REBELLION**, but secondly, we see his . . .

II. REPENTANCE - he came to himself (Vs. 17-19).

To “*repent*” means “*to change one's mind,*”

Repentance involves the will as well as the mind and the emotions - “I will arise... I will go... I will say... .” Our resolutions may be noble, but unless we act on them, they can never of themselves bring about any permanent good.

Look at the Five Steps to get back home:

1. There was an **AWAKENING**
2. There was **REPENTANCE**
3. There was **HONESTY**. You will know that you are really serious about changing your life when you stop making excuses for your behavior
4. There was **HUMILITY**
5. There was **RESOLUTION**

Thus far, we have seen **REBELLION**, then there was **REPENTANCE** and now we see . . .

III. REJOICING - he came to the father (Vs. 20-24).

Of course, the father pictures to us the attitude of our Heavenly Father toward sinners who repent: He is rich in His mercy and grace, and great in His love toward them (**Eph. 2:1-10**). We are saved by God's grace, and grace is *love that pays a price.*

In the far country, the prodigal learned the meaning of misery; but back home, he discovered the meaning of mercy. Have you experienced that **Saving and Amazing Grace** in your life and the Love and Mercy of God through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ?