

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

**“Parable of the Lost Sons and
The Loving Father Part 11”**

Luke 15:11-32

Last week I mentioned about the story of the film “**Finding Nemo**” which is an animated story of a father’s resolute search for his son. It is a great movie and I highly recommend it to any of you adults. You could even watch it with your children or even your grandchildren.

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,**” for it emphasizes the graciousness of the father more than the sinfulness of the son.

Remember the setting of this parable in *Vs 1-3*. In *Vs 3* we see that Jesus therefore spoke this parable for the sake of these religious leaders. Now remember that this is one parable with three different pictures in it. They all emphasize something that was **LOST**, but **FOUND**, and there was **REJOICING**.

Now let’s look at the three characters in this parable that was directed to these religious leaders in *Vs. 1-3*. First, we see:

I. THE SCANDALOUS YOUNGER SON (15:11-24)

Last week we learned two things about this younger son.

His Rebellion - he went to the far country (vs. 11-16)

His Repentance - he came to himself (vs. 17-19). To “repent” means” to change one's mind, and that is exactly what he did.

The father had the last word, so we do not know how the story ended.

Everybody in this chapter experienced joy except the elder brother. Don't stand outside! Come in and enjoy the feast today!

The second character in this parable is:

II. THE SYMPATHETIC FORGIVING FATHER Vs.20-24

We don’t often think about the father’s pain when we read this story. But it couldn’t have been easy for him.

First, of all, he lost **part of the fortune** he had worked so long to amass. Second, he **lost his reputation** in the community. But the worst pain was the simple fact that the father **had lost his son**.

The father knew full well how his son would **NOT** be welcomed in the village when he returned in failure, so the father runs to meet him. It would be impossible to predict what would happen next. This “**Grace Encounter**” gives each of us the hope of tasting grace ourselves.

Notice the five signs of the father’s welcome:

1. The **KISS** - represented forgiveness.
2. The **BEST ROBE** - a status symbol.
3. The **RING** - a sign of authority.
4. The **SANDALS** - a sign of freedom. Only slaves went barefoot.
5. The **FEAST**, the sign of a joyful welcome - reserved for special occasions.

The third character in this parable is:

III. THE SANCTIMONIOUS OLDER SON Vs. 25-32

This elder brother was one of those **pious frauds**.

He is a picture of the scribes and Pharisees to which Jesus was telling this parable about. Their sin was **inward** (*sins of the heart rather than the flesh*) and had to do with and **ATTITUDE** which was abominable.

To begin with, he was *self-righteous*.

***Pride* was another one of his failings**

You cannot help but notice his *unconcern for his missing brother*

Perhaps the most disturbing thing about the elder son was his fierce *anger*

How strange that the elder brother could speak peaceably to a servant boy, but he could not speak peaceably to his brother or father! If we are out of fellowship with God, we cannot be in fellowship with our brothers and sisters and, conversely, if we harbor an unforgiving attitude toward others, we cannot be in communion with God (**Matt. 5:21-26; 1 John 4:18-21**).