

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-24

1. Relate the parable briefly.
2. What was the younger son's request and what was his father's response?
3. Where did the younger son go after he "gathered all together"?
4. What would the term "far country" mean to a Jewish person?
5. What did he do after arriving at his destination?
6. What happened after he had "spent all"?
7. What work did he do to cope with the famine and lack of money?

8. What downward steps in the prodigal's fall were especially galling to a Jewish man?

9. How do we know he was not earning enough to feed himself?

10. What was the younger son's solution to his problem "when he came to himself"?

11. What did he plan to say to his father?

12. Is there any reason to believe his father was expecting him to return?

13. What part of the confession did the son leave off?

14. Did the father receive him as a servant or a son?

15. What justification did the father offer for the celebration at the son's return?

16. Do you see in the two sons a Gentile and a Jew or as penitent sinners and proud sinners wherever these may be met?

17. Who is represented by the father? Would you agree that the story is more about him than the two sons?

18. How did the servants know that the father recognized the prodigal as a son instead of a servant?

19. How could the father say that his son was dead? Is it possible to be dead while living?

20. In what two ways was the prodigal like a sinner?

21. How was the reception of the prodigal's father like that of our Heavenly Father?

22. What action of the scribes and Pharisees precipitated the parables which Jesus told about the lost?

23. Why is this story more touching than the first two?

24. How is this parable unlike the parable of the lost lamb and the parable of the lost coin?