

THE FATHER OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Introduction

- 1) **Luke 15:11-32** – the parable of the prodigal lost son
 - a) Final parable of three taught by Jesus to the Pharisees and scribes who complained that He “receives sinners and eats with them” (vv. 1-3)
 - b) The first two parables emphasize joy after finding something lost and the final parable emphasizes the ungodly attitude of the older brother (like the Pharisees and scribes)
- 2) While the prodigal (“wasteful”) son and his elder brother are two main characters, their father is also an important character
- 3) The prodigal son is the person fallen into sin, the elder brother is the self-righteous critic, and the father is the Father of all mankind, God Himself.
- 4) We see in the father of the prodigal son the characteristics of our Father in heaven

I) THE FATHER IS GENEROUS, KIND, FAIR, AND GOOD

- A) Generous to give of what is his to his children (vv. 12, 31)
 - 1) God is very generous with us (Acts 17:28; Matt. 5:45; Eph. 1:3; Jn. 3:16)
 - 2) God gives us the breath of life and the hope of eternal life (Gen. 2:7; 1 Jn. 5:11)
- B) Kind and fair toward his children (vv. 12-13; 18-19, 28, 31)
 - 1) God is kind and fair toward us (Lk. 6:35; Eph. 4:32; Titus 3:4; Acts 10:34-35)
- C) Good to his servants (vv. 17-19)
 - 1) God is good to us His lowly servants (Matt. 24:45-46; Rom. 6:16-18)

II) THE FATHER ALLOWS FOR HIS SON’S FREE WILL

- A) The father did not force his son to stay or return
 - 1) God allows us to make our choices (Deut. 30:19; Matt. 7:13-14)
 - 2) The responsibility for our actions is on us (Lk. 15:18)
 - 3) Those who sin against God need to repent (Acts 8:21-22)

III) THE FATHER PATIENTLY WATCHES AND WAITS FOR HIS LOST SON

- A) He saw his son returning when he was yet a great way off (v. 20)
 - 1) God desires that all men be saved and know the truth (1 Tim. 2:4; Lk. 19:10)

IV) THE FATHER HAS COMPASSION ON HIS RETURNING SON

- A) Even before hearing what he said, he had compassion and welcomed him (v. 20)
 - 1) Our God is full of compassion and mercy for his children (Psa. 86:15)

V) THE FATHER HAS A HEART OF FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION

- A) Heard his son’s confession and celebrated his restoration (vv. 21-24)
 - 1) When we are forgiven by God, we are restored to His full fellowship (Gal. 6:1)
 - 2) We must not be bitter like the elder brother who was not pleased with the joy and restoration the father had for his younger brother (2 Cor. 2:7)

Conclusion

We have a wonderful, loving, and compassionate **Father in heaven** who is watching for the wayward soul to come home. Turn from sin and go to Him for abundant forgiveness!