

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

TEXT: Luke 15:11-24.

INTRODUCTION:

A. This has been referred to as the "pearl of the parables."

1. A rebuke to the cold hearted and self-righteous attitude of the scribes and Pharisees who despised Jesus of His association with publicans, sinners and harlots.

2. There are still two classes even today:

- a. Those who acknowledge sin in their lives.
- b. Those who are self-righteous.

B. The scribes & Pharisees are the older brother who would not forgive. Luke 15:25-32.

1. Later we will note the Older Brother.
2. We will also note the Loving Father.

C. We want to notice the life of this young man in six words.

BODY:

I. WILFUL-Vs 11,12.

A. He wanted to be independent and without interference- 2 Pet. 2:10.

B. What is sin?

1. 1 Jn. 3:4.
2. 1 Jn. 5:17a.

C. One of a child's first complaints is that his parents are too narrow.

D. Men depart from God by choice, not chance- Isa. 59:1-2.

1. Men think they know better than God- Gen. 3:5. **"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,**

knowing good and evil."

2. He was not born in a far country, babies not born in sin.
3. God does not constrain us at the sacrifice of free moral agency.
 - a. Jer. 10:23. "not in man to direct his own steps"
 - b. Prov. 14:12- There is a way that seemeth right...

II. WANDERING- Vs. 13.

A. Each step he took, took him farther from the father (happiness and peace).

1. 1 Pet. 2:25.

2. Pr. 21:16. **A man who wanders from the way of understanding Will rest in the assembly of the dead.**

B. Sin is progressive and always away- James 1:12-15.

C. Someone once said, "There are two places God is not -Hell and the heart of a rebel."

III. WASTEFUL-Vs. 13.

A. He wasted his physical and mental powers, money and time.

B. Everything from the father was used w/o taking him into account.

1. Jas. 1:17.

2. Pro. 29:3. **Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, But a companion of harlots wastes his wealth.**

C. Sin is the most wasteful thing in the world. Takes away your FORTUNE, friends, family, body, brain, conscience and soul are destroyed by it.

IV. WANTING-Vs. 14-16.

A. The prodigal son came to complete destitution and disgrace.

B. He had not planned for the future- Prov. 20:4. **The lazy man will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and [have] nothing.**

C. Pleasures c/n satisfy the soul.

1. Ecc. 12:1, 13. **Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.**

2. Moses knew this- Heb. 11:25.

C. One might as well hope to quench a fire by adding fuel to it as to conquer a lust by gratifying it.

D. Sin becomes a YOKE- Deut. 28:48. **"therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.**

E. The way of the transgressor is still hard- Prov. 13:15. **The law of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.**

V. WRETCHED-Vs. 17-19.

A. The adversity caused by sin brought him to his senses.

B. He was lucky- Heb. 3:13.

C. Sin must be faced- Lk. 18:13.

D. The consequences of sin must be faced and admitted even though Satan says there are none.

1. Gen. 3:4 **"Thou shalt not surely die."**

2. Psa. 9:17 **"The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God."**

E. If we c/n get back to the Father there is no hope-Jn. 14:6.

VI. WELCOME-Vs. 20-24.

A. We often speak of the invitation, but not the welcome.

B. We must put forth an effort to come (Conversion).

1. Matt. 18:3.
2. Acts 3:19.
3. Acts 2:38.

C. God has come along way to meet us.

1. Jn. 3:16.
2. 2 Cor. 5:21.
3. Isa. 53:6. **All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

D. He has made a way back.

1. Eph. 2:16.
2. Heb. 2:17.

CONCLUSION:

A. The Prodigal son's life was:

1. Willful.
2. Wandering.
3. Wasteful.
4. Wanting.
5. Wretched.
6. Welcome.

B. Everyone person fits those same words until they obey the GOSPEL.