



Father's Day 2013 A Father's Love The Prodigal Father

Near the end of his life, Rembrandt painted, "Return of the Prodigal Son." (Left) Many have seen that the painting was more about the 'father' than the sons. It was how

Rembrandt saw God the Father. How do you see God the Father?

Biblical Parable: A short allegorical story designed to illustrate and teach Biblical truth.

Prodigal: **1) Negative:** *Lavish living*—Rashly or wastefully extravagant. **2) Positive:** *Lavish giving*—Giving or given in abundance in a lavish way.

A. The Sons

1. The prodigal son: vv. 11-18 Luke 15 teaches us that sheep may get lost by nature, and coins may get lost by neglect but sons, unless they are too young to know better, get lost by choice.

—God the Father gives us freedom of choice and, as much as it breaks His heart, He allows us to leave if that is what we choose to do. Sin is first relational, and it begins when we choose to leave life with the Father.

2. The perfect son: vv. 25-32 The young (prodigal) son had been far from the father (in a distant country) because of sins of passion. The older (perfect—stayed at home) son was separated from his father through sins of attitude.

—It's possible to leave the father without leaving the farm.

B. The Father *What do we learn about the Father from this parable?*

1. Come as you are: You don't have clean up your act to come to God. He cleans the fish after he catches them.

2. Always looking: When we drift from the Father, He is always looking for us.

3. Through the far country: For some, the only way to the Father is through the far country.

4. Filled with compassion: The Father ALWAYS sees us through compassionate eyes.

5. The prodigal Father: The Father lavishes us with His love and benefits.

6. You are with me: The Father's heart is, "My son you are always with me, everything I have is yours."

7. Never worthless: We may be 'unworthy' of the Father's embrace, but we are never worthless to Him.

8. Lost and found: The greatest joy for the Father is when the one who is lost has been found—has come home. *Alive, alive, alive forevermore!!!!*

Luke 15:11-32 (KJV)

11 And he said, A certain man had two sons: **12** And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. **13** And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. **15** And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. **16** And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. **17** And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, **19** And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. **21** And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. **22** But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: **23** And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. **26** And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. **27** And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. **28** And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. **29** And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: **30** But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. **31** And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. **32** It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.