

The Prodigal Son (Part I)

Parable of the Prodigal Son

Parable, from the compound word παραβολή .

1. Παρα – Para, means beside
2. Βολή – Bole, to throw/cast

Luke 15 in Context

1. Jesus had been followed by large crowds as he moved through the city teaching. (Luke 14:25)
2. The Pharisees and the Scribes scrutinized Jesus anwere looking to catch him in violation of Mosaic Law. (Luke 14:1-4)
3. Jesus was rightfully critical of the Pharisees. (Matthew 23:1-7)
4. First two Parables
 1. Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4-7)
 - Reference to Prophecy. (Isa 53:5,6)
 - The 99 sheep are the respectable Jews, the one is a one who lost that respectability.
 2. Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)
 - Again showing the worth of the lost 1 among the many.
 - Stating the joy found in heaven when one sinner repents.

The Parable of the Lost Son

1. "A certain man had two sons" shows that they were a family, one group of people.
2. "give me my share" division of the goods to the children established by Law. (Deuteronomy 21:17)

The Prodigal Son (Part I) (Continued)

3. *"got together all he had, set off for a distant country"* he desired to be apart from the authority of the Father.
4. *"squandered his wealth in wild living"* This was not simply being irresponsible with money, but an unbridled willingness to sin.
5. *"there was a severe famine in that whole country"* when we have fallen out of fellowship, God will discipline us to urge us to restore to fellowship. ([Prov 3:11,12](#), [Heb 12:7- 12](#))
6. *"he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country"* instead of turning to his father, he clung to human solutions.
7. *"who sent him to his fields to feed pigs"* this is hitting rock bottom. Pigs were detestable to the Jewish people.
8. *"but no one gave him anything"* His human solution to his problem was not sustaining him.
9. *"When he came to his senses"* when he had accepted the temptation to sin, he had given over to evil/satanic thinking. In that field he came to his sense and knew he needed the Father. ([Ecc. 9:3](#))
10. "I will set out and go back to my father" the son gives three statements he will give to his father.
 1. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you"
 2. "I am no longer worthy to be called your son"
 3. "make me like one of your hired servants."
11. "while he was still a long way off, his father saw him" the Father was watching, eagerly hoping for the return of his son.