



UNFOLDING
THE MYSTERIES
OF THE KINGDOM:

STUDIES IN THE PARABLES OF JESUS

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32



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Man

Younger Son

Older Son

The distant country

General Emphasis: Seek and receive back the lost



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Themes within the parable:

- Luke 15:11-13: The Father's Love
 - Contrasted by
- Luke 15:14-19: The World's Cruelty



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Luke 15:11-13: The Father's Love

- God does not force His will upon us
- God lavishes blessings upon us
- God allows us to follow our desires
- God allows us to leave Him



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Luke 15:14-19: The World's Cruelty

- The world gladly takes all that one has
- The world's pleasure are brief
- The world gives nothing in return
- The world enslaves those found within
- The world does not care about individuals



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- Luke 15:11-13: The Father's Love
 - Contrasted by
- Luke 15:14-19: The World's Cruelty
- Luke 15:20-24: The Prodigal Comes Home
 - Contrasted by
- Luke 15:25-32: The Prodigal Who Never Left



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Luke 15:20-24:

The Prodigal Comes Home

- True repentance draws us to God
- It is never too late to return
- God's grace is able to save, completely
- God is patiently and anxiously awaiting our return
- We were created for this relationship



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Consider the following:

- Psalm 103:10-13 - God has not dealt fairly
- Isaiah 30:18 - God longs to be gracious
- Ephesians 2:1-10 - Saved by grace
- Romans 13:11-14 - Awaken from sin
- Ephesians 1:3-6 - We are God's pleasure



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Luke 15:25-32:

The Prodigal Who Never Left

- God loves us when we do not leave Him
- Our heart reveals our true nature
- We ought to realize our own condition, sin and need
- God expects us to show love toward other sinners



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Consider the following:

- Matthew 7:1-7 - Judging righteously
- Matthew 23:25-28 - Inside or outside
- 2 Peter 1:5-8 - Don't forget our own condition
- 1 John 2:9-11, 4:20-21 - Love one another
- Galatians 5:22-6:2 - Restore one another
- James 5:19-20 - Save one another



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Lessons:

- Faithfulness is a matter of the heart
- Righteousness is not a competition
- Mercy is not equitable but infinite
- Mercy and forgiveness is required of us too
- Rejoice in every soul that returns

