

# The Prodigal's Next Day

# Luke 15

- Context: complaining Pharisees
  - “This Man receives sinners and eats with them”
- Jesus’s response: a list of lost things
  1. Parable of the Lost Sheep
  2. Parable of the Lost Coin
  3. Parable of the Lost Son
- All point to one conclusion: God wants His people back
  - Overarching theme answers Pharisees’ complaint
  - Other lessons can be drawn with subsequent study

# Luke 15

- The ‘Prodigal Son’: Luke 15:11-31
  - “characterized by profuse or wasteful expenditure”
    - Root word means ‘not saved’, ‘wasteful’
    - 1 Peter 4:3-4
      - <sup>3</sup> For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. <sup>4</sup> In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.
  - Wasted inheritance, had nothing when he was in need
    - Forced to care for pigs, still can’t make ends meet
    - Comes to his senses, goes back home

# Luke 15

- The 'Prodigal Son': Luke 15:11-31
  - Father welcomes and forgives
    - Calls for the best robe, a ring, and sandals
    - Orders the fatted calf killed
    - Music and dancing
  - Brother not so willing
    - Would not go in to welcome his brother back
    - Angry at both his father and his brother
- Parable representations
  - Younger brother = sinners Jesus is receiving
  - Older brother = complaining Pharisees
- End of the parable, but not of the story
  - Lessons we can learn from 'the next day'

# The Prodigal's Next Day

## I. Lasting Consequences

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- Luke 15:11-13

- <sup>11</sup> Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. <sup>13</sup> And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.”

# I. Lasting Consequences

- Luke 15:11-13
- Son asked for his inheritance
  - Father divided his belongings between them
  - Possessions belong to the sons
    - One chose to remain at home working
    - One chose to leave home and spend them
- We face the same choice with our lives
  - Must decide how we will use what God has given us

# I. Lasting Consequences

- Luke 15:29-32

- <sup>29</sup> “So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

<sup>31</sup> “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ ”



# I. Lasting Consequences

- Luke 15:29-32
- Older brother points out differences
  - Claims to have served diligently
  - Points out brother's sinful life
- Father acknowledges the sons' situations
  - "All that I have is yours"
  - Younger son wasted his inheritance
- Our choices have similar consequences
  - Years spent in sin can never be regained
  - Sinful decisions can have lasting consequences

# I. Lasting Consequences

- 2 Samuel 11
  - David has an affair with Bathsheba
  - Tries to cover up the subsequent pregnancy
  - Orchestrates Uriah's death
  - Takes Bathsheba as his wife

# I. Lasting Consequences

- 2 Samuel 12
  - Nathan confronts David
    - <sup>10</sup> “Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ <sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. <sup>12</sup> For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’ ”
  - Judgment pronounced – consequences of sin
    - Sword shall never depart from his house
    - Adversity from within his house
    - Wives publicly taken from him

# I. Lasting Consequences

- 2 Samuel 12

- David repents

- <sup>13</sup> So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. <sup>14</sup> However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.” <sup>15</sup> Then Nathan departed to his house.

- David is spared death because of his repentance

- Rest of the judgment remains intact!
- His family suffers from his poor example and inaction
  - Next seven chapters could potentially have been avoided

# I. Lasting Consequences

- Even forgiven sin has consequences
  - Prodigal forgiven but still wasted his inheritance
  - David forgiven but still suffered physical consequences
- Just as true today
  - Years of drinking don't miraculously disappear
  - Criminal acts still require physical punishment
  - Relationships may take time to repair, if at all
- We must be ready to face the consequences of our choices – and not incur more!

# The Prodigal's Next Day

I. Lasting Consequences

**II. Straightening Up**

## II. Straightening Up

- Luke 15:13, 29

- <sup>13</sup> “And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. . .”

- <sup>29</sup> “So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time . . .’ ”

- Very different environments

- Son goes to a ‘far country’, lives the way he wants
  - Father’s house involves ‘commandments’ that must be kept by those who live there

## II. Straightening Up

- Prodigal living
  - Son had to leave to live this life
  - Brother spoke severely about his behavior
- Welcomed home, but changes needed
  - Cannot continue living a prodigal life at home
  - Father may celebrate son's return, but there will still be work to do in the morning



## II. Straightening Up

- Cleaning up our act
  - Once 'welcomed home', we need to change too!
  - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
    - <sup>9</sup> Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.
  - “Such were some of you, *but . . .*”
    - Christians are people that have come home to God
    - We must live like we're living with God!

## II. Straightening Up

- Cleaning up our act
  - Work to do once we're home
  - Ephesians 2:8-10
    - <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
    - Created for good works, commanded to walk in them

## II. Straightening Up

- Cleaning up our act
  - Work to do once we're home
  - Ephesians 2:8-10
    - Created for good works, commanded to walk in them
  - Colossians 1:9-10
    - <sup>9</sup> For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; <sup>10</sup> that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God
    - Walk worthy of the Lord, fruitful in every good work

## II. Straightening Up

- Once home, the prodigal:
  - Had to make changes to his lifestyle
  - Had work to do for his father
- Once home, *we*:
  - Have changes to make to our lifestyles
  - Have work to do for our Father

# The Prodigal's Next Day

- I. Lasting Consequences
- II. Straightening Up
- III. Accepting Others**

### III. Accepting Others

- Luke 15:28-30

- <sup>28</sup> “But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’”

### III. Accepting Others

- Luke 15:28-30
  - Feels wronged by both brother and father
    - Younger brother runs off for some time, parties it up
    - Older brother left to pick up the slack
    - Feels neglected – no blessing despite obedience
  - “This son of yours...”, not “my brother”

### III. Accepting Others

- Genesis 4:3-8

- <sup>3</sup> And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

<sup>6</sup> So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup> Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.



### III. Accepting Others

- Luke 15:28-30
  - Feels wronged by both brother and father
  - “This son of yours...”, not “my brother”
    - Genesis 4:3-8
      - Cain’s anger at God drove him to kill his brother
      - Prodigal brother as good as dead
  - Focus on self – “You never gave *me*...”
  - James 3:14-16
    - <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.
- Envy and selfishness can blind us to God’s forgiveness

### III. Accepting Others

- Godly forgiveness
  - Colossians 3:12-13
    - <sup>12</sup> Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.
    - We are called to forgive as God forgives
  - Matthew 6:14-15
    - <sup>14</sup> “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
    - Jesus conditions *our* forgiveness on this!
- Utterly *essential* we get this right!