

# The Prodigal Son

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In our meeting this month we reflect on the parable of the Prodigal Son.

## SCRIPTURE VERSES

### [Luke 15:11-32](#)

<sup>11</sup> ... “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup> The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

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## DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

This parable is a familiar one to us all. In our discussion let us think at each stage about how we can relate this in our world today.

1. This parable is the third of a trilogy recorded in the same chapter by Luke:

- The Lost Sheep [Luke 15:4-7](#)
- The Lost Coin [Luke 15:8-10](#)

Note the progression.

2. Who was Jesus speaking to?

3. Can we identify who the main characters in the parable may represent?

- The Prodigal Son
- The Father
- The Citizen in the other country
- The Servants
- The Older Son

4. Why did the younger son leave his home and family? What does this say about him? How would the father be feeling?

5. When the son fell on hard times he was sent to feed pigs. How were pigs viewed by Jews?

6. Why did the son decide to return to his father?

7. When did the father see his son? What was his reaction? How did he greet him? What does this say about the father?

8. What is the significance of the robe, ring and sandals called for by his father?

9. What was the reaction of the older son? How did the father respond to the older son?

10. What is the message Jesus is trying to portray in this parable?