

Chart on: Luke 15:11-24 The Prodigal Son

Ret. 91:3-4 (to ,)
The parable of “the prodigal son” is rightly called “the
pearl of parables,”

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| <p>Luke 15:11 11 ¶ And he said, A certain man had two sons:</p> | <p>(prodigal: given to extravagant expenditures; spending money or other things without necessity; profuse; lavish; wasteful; not frugal or economical; very liberal; a spendthrift; a waster)</p> |
| <p>Luke 15:12 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.</p> | <p>Father is God</p> <p>Give me my share early; the elder son would get twice as much as the younger</p> <p>Portion: <i>meros</i>: part, one of the constituent parts of a whole</p> <p>Can good be portioned out? Are there only parts of good?</p> |

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| | <p>Character of younger son:</p> <p>Human will Believes he can separate himself from the Father and be free</p> <p>Immaturity Irresponsible Instant gratification</p> <p>Do what he wants to do when he wants to do it Not willing to work hard, to wait and be patient Weak and frivolous</p> |
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| <p>Luke 15:13 13And 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.</p> | <p>Gathered together: Converted everything to cash FAR COUNTRY: 1st degree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Devotes himself to pursuit of pleasure - World of sin and separation from God - God is forgotten - Wastes his substance - Looking for pleasure and substance and life in matter - Far from God’s law - Prodigal means: - Reckless - Extravagant, - Wasteful - Ungrateful <p>Self-centeredness; willfulness; Selfish Attracted to sensual and worldly things False pleasures of the flesh: = severe consequences</p> |
| <p>Luke 15:14 14And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.</p> | <p>Famine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scarcity of food; dearth; want of sufficient provisions; destitution; want - Spiritually starving, spiritually malnourished - Friends prove false, animal indulgences fail to satisfy him - <p>Want: <i>hystereo</i> in Greek: left behind; fall back from; lack; to be devoid of;</p> |

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| <p>Luke 15:15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.</p> | |
| <p>Luke 15:16 16And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.</p> | <p>Pigs: do not chew the cud, they are considered ‘unclean’ for a Jew</p> <p>Degradation for the young boy To feed swine: very low employment Unlawful to keep pigs and to eat them</p> <p>He allowed himself to feel the pull to the glamour of sin and now he is pulled to animality and degradation</p> <p>Sin brings its own punishment</p> <p>Direction is totally downward</p> <p>Ends up becoming pleasures’ slave</p> <p>SH 272:6-8 In the soil of an “honest and good heart” the seed must be sown; else it beareth not much fruit, for the swinish element in human nature uproots it.</p> |

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| <p>Luke 15:17 17And <u>when he came to himself</u>, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!</p> | <p>REPENTENCE: 2nd degree</p> <p>Very expressive phrase: commonly applied to one who has been deranged and has gained his right mind</p> <p>He wakes up Filled with great remorse and regret</p> <p>Longs to return to the Father and be loved, cared for and fed</p> |
| <p>Luke 15:18 18I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,</p> | <p>Sin: <i>hamartano</i>: to miss the mark; to err, be mistaken; to wander from the path of uprightness; to do wrong; to wander from the law of God; to violate God’s law</p> <p>Go to my Father: he has nowhere else to go but to God</p> <p>I have sinned: been ungrateful, rebellious</p> <p>With true repentance, humility, and willingness to confess his sins and take responsibility for them; he longs to return</p> <p>Repent: <i>metanoeo</i> in Greek; to turn from; to change one’s mind; to heartily amend with abhorrence of one’s past sin</p> <p>Convert: <i>epistrepho</i> in Greek: to turn to; to the worship of the true God; to bring back; to turn one’s self about; return</p> <p>He turns away FROM the FAR COUNTRY and returns TO THE HOME OF THE FATHER</p> |

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| | <p>Mis. 107:25-30 The lack of seeing one’s deformed mentality, and of <i>repentance</i> therefore, deep, never to be repented of, is retarding, and in certain morbid instances stopping, the growth of Christian Scientists. Without a knowledge of his sins, and repentance so severe that it destroys them, no person is or can be a Christian Scientist.</p> |
| <p>Luke 15:19 19And am no more <u>worthy</u> to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.</p> | <p>REFORMATION: 2nd degree</p> <p>Worthy: <i>axios</i> in Greek;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weighing; having weight; value; worth as much - Befitting; congruous; one who has merit <p>With deep humility</p> <p>Love for his father’s house</p> <p>Confidence in his father that he would treat him kindly even if like a servant</p> |

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| <p>Luke 15:20 20And he <u>arose</u>, and <u>came</u> 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.</p> | <p>Arose: <i>anistemi</i> in Greek Cause to rise up Raise from laying down Cause to bring forward and appear</p> <p>Came to his father:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Erchomai</i> in Greek - Make one’s appearance; come into being; come forth; show itself; find his place; - To come <p>Great way off: Father sees him clad in rags, poor, and emaciated He recognizes His son Moved with compassion and love</p> <p>And Ran: the son came slowly, the Father ran</p> <p>Kissed him: manifestation of forgiveness</p> <p>Father daily waiting for his return Expecting him moment by moment</p> <p>Total forgiveness and unconditional love No reproach or condemnation</p> |
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| <p>Luke 15:21 21And 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.</p> | <p>Worthy: <i>axios</i> in Greek;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weighing; having weight; value; worth as much - Befitting; congruous; one who has merit <p>The only real gravitational pull is Godward</p> <p>Able to let go of past mistakes and was restored</p> |
| <p>Luke 15:22 22But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put <i>it</i> on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on <i>his</i> feet:</p> | <p>Redeemed by the Father</p> <p><i>“spiritual teaching must always be by symbols.” 575:13</i></p> <p>symbolic of true sonship: “I know who you are, you are my image, my beloved son.”</p> <p>Ring: symbol of rank and honor; mark of wealth and dignity; mark of favor and affection</p> <p>Shoes on his feet: symbolizing spiritual freedom, for slaves went barefoot; expressed his wish that he be treated as his son and not as a servant</p> <p>Best robe: son was in rags, poverty Father clothes him in best raiment Outer garment; put on the best one they had; one reserved for festival occasions</p> |

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| | <u>RESTORATION</u> |
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| <p>Luke 15:24 24For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.</p> | <p>Was dead in sin - Morally dead</p> <p>And is alive again by repentance</p> |
| | <p>There isn't anything that we could ever do that God could not forgive.</p> <p>Pleasure in matter brings pain. Sin has its consequences, and we attach ourselves to those consequences until we cease sinning. Upon our return home (to the consciousness of God and the obedience of his laws) we find ourselves restored, cared for, and beloved.</p> |
| | <p>SH 497:9 3. We acknowledge God's forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts.</p> |
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