

# *PARABLES*

## *THE LOST SON*



*And while he was still a long distance away,  
his father saw him coming. Filled with love  
and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced  
him, and kissed him. Luke 15: 20*

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# Parable of the Lost Son

**Luke 15: 11-32**

Jesus often taught people using **parables**. These were stories that were used to illustrate a spiritual truth - an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

One day when Jesus was teaching .. *Tax collectors and other notorious sinners ...came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such despicable people--even eating with them!* (? 1)  
So Jesus used this illustration: Luke 15:1-3

Jesus then tells three parables or stories about how important it is for someone to go find sinful people who are lost and help them get to know and obey God and walk in His ways. When this happens there is rejoicing in Heaven. It makes God very, very happy.

(? 2)

Jesus said: ... *I, the Son of Man, have come to seek and save those like him ( notorious sinners) who are lost.* Luke 19:10 (? 3)

The first story or parable about “One Lost Sheep” ends with:

*In the same way, heaven will be happier over one lost sinner who returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!* Luke 15: 7



31 His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you and I are very close, and everything I have is yours. (? 15)

32 We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!'"(? 16)

The second story about “One Lost Coin” ends with: *In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents. Luke 15:10*

Sometimes we just don't get the point.

So .. To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: *A man had two sons. Luke 15: 11 (? 4)*

The third story is about “One Lost Son”. This is often called “**The Story of the Prodigal Son**”

How do you think this story will end? Will the lost son be found and will there be rejoicing?

### THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

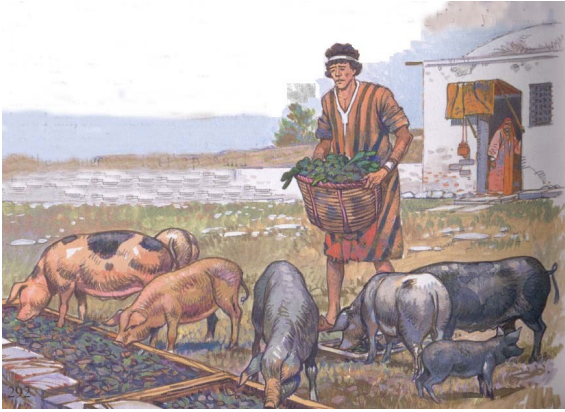
(Note: You may want to read through this parable, verses 11 - 32 in one reading and then come back and answer the questions as you read through it again.)

11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: A man had two sons. (? 5) 12 The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

13 A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and took a trip to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money on wild living. (? 6)

14 About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve.

15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him to feed his pigs. 16 The boy became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. (? 7)



17 When he finally came to his senses, (? 8) he said to himself, 'At home even the hired men have food enough to spare, and here I am, dying of hunger!

18 I will go home to my father and say, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired man.' (? 9)

20 So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. (? 10)



21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' (? 11)

22 But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger, and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening in the pen. We must celebrate with a feast,

24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began. (? 12)

25 Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, 26 and he asked one of the servants what was going on.

27 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the calf we were fattening and has prepared a great feast. We are celebrating because of his safe return.'

28 The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. (? 13)

His father came out and begged him,

29 but he replied, 'All these years I've worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends.

30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have.' (? 14)