



PRODIGAL

The Younger Son • Prodigal, Part 1

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor • December 28, 2014

A DEFINING STORY — Luke 15

- An answer to a complaint
- Parables: Stories with a point — lost, (intensive search) found, joy
- All three stories are really about the heart of God.

FOUR MOVEMENTS IN THE STORY OF THE YOUNGER SON

▲ MOVEMENT AWAY FROM THE FATHER

¹¹ And He said, "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. ¹³ And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living."

Luke 15:11–13

- We all long for and resent God at the same time.
- We leave home when we attempt to find ourselves (happiness, security, significance) apart from God.

▲ MOVEMENT TO EMPTINESS

"Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished."

Luke 15:14

Notice:

- The "I" based existence
- We get played: autonomy ≠ freedom

→ PRELUDE — The next movement begins with a longing, a cry, an "I will," a risk that God for no good reason will once again receive sinners.

▲ MOVEMENT HOME

¹⁷ "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven [or up to heaven], and in your sight; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."'"

Luke 15:17–19

- Imperfect Motivation
- Empty handed — from "give me" to "make me"
- Confession — verse 18
- It's easy to get "unworthy" (true) confused with "worthless" (untrue) — verse 19

▲ THE DISPROPORTIONATE MOVEMENT OF THE FATHER

"So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."

Luke 15:20

EXPERIENCE OF...

→ Forgiveness

"One of the greatest challenges of the spiritual life is to receive God's forgiveness"

– Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

→ Rest



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A DEFINING STORY — Luke 15

- An answer to a _____
- Parables: Stories with a point — _____, (intensive search) _____
- All three stories are really about the _____.

FOUR MOVEMENTS IN THE STORY OF THE YOUNGER SON

▲ MOVEMENT _____

¹¹ And He said, "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. ¹³ And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living."

Luke 15:11–13

- We all _____ and _____ God at the same time.
- We leave home when we attempt to _____ (happiness, security, significance) _____.

▲ MOVEMENT TO _____

"Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished."

Luke 15:14

Notice:

- The _____ based existence
- We get played: _____ ≠ _____

→ PRELUDE — The next movement begins with a _____, a cry, an "I will," a _____ that God for no good reason will once again _____.

▲ MOVEMENT _____

¹⁷ "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven [or up to heaven], and in your sight; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."'"

Luke 15:17–19

- _____
- Empty handed — from _____ to _____
- _____ — verse 18
- It's easy to get _____ (true) confused with _____ (untrue) — verse 19

▲ THE _____ OF THE FATHER

"So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."

Luke 15:20

EXPERIENCE OF...

→ _____

"One of the greatest challenges of the spiritual life is to receive God's forgiveness"

– Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

→ _____