

The Parables of Jesus

“The Prodigal Family”

Luke 15:11-32

September 1, 2019

A Worship Series for the Summer of ‘19

PLAY THE PRODIGAL
READING VIDEO HERE.

I WILL SET IT UP FIRST SO I'LL KEEP IT
ON THE TITLE SLIDE UNTIL I'M READY

What it means to be Lost

^{15:1} Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled... ^{15:3} So he told them this parable:

⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them...

⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin...

Separated
Disconnected
Isolated

2 Ways To Be Lost: FAR and Near

¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, **give me the share of property that is coming to me.**' And he divided his property between them.

¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

Me > You

"I am, and there is no one besides me."

(Isaiah 47:8 & 10)

I don't want you but
what you can give me.
(*"I wish you were dead"*)

¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into **a far country**, and there he **squandered** his property in **reckless living**.

"far country"

"reckless living"

Financial

Sexual/Sensual

Substances

Where do I go and What do I do to be satisfied?

Where “Faraway Lostness” Leads

¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father”

Where “Faraway Lostness” Leads

Hungry

*“severe famine”
“in need”*

Worldly satisfaction
never lasts.

Law of diminishing
returns

Desperate

“hired himself”

What we use to satisfy
us, end up owning us.

Leaving us in a place we
never thought we’d be.

Repentant

“came to himself”

Living in Darkness has a
unique way to shed
light on who we are
actually made to be.

2 Ways To Be Lost: Far and NEAR

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing...

²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,

²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.’

Has been “with” the Father,
but not “near” Him.

Outward Nearness
(*“never disobeyed”*)

Inward Distance
(*“angry and refused”*)

Basing my identity
on my goodness

What does elder look like and where it leads?

Arrogant

Entitled

Thankless

Joyless

Stubborn

Isolated

“Takers are the most miserable people on earth.” Francis Chan

They are so good, that they scorn God's offer of mercy. Indeed these are often in the worst condition: these are they who think they need no repentance. Their morality undoes them. They make a "savior" of it
- Thomas Watson

Hope for The Lost

“Addiction” might be the best word to explain the lostness that so deeply permeates society (which) make us cling to what the world proclaims as the keys to self-fulfillment: accumulation of wealth and power; attainment of status and admiration; lavish consumption of food and drink, and sexual gratification without distinguishing between lust and love
[as well as -- morality, good works and spiritual resumes]

These addictions create expectations that cannot but fail to satisfy our deepest needs. As long as we live within the world's delusions, our addictions condemn us to futile quests in "the distant country," leaving us to face an endless series of disillusionments while our sense of self remains unfulfilled...It is from there that **our cry for deliverance rises up.**”

— Henri J.M. Nouwen, The Return of the Prodigal Son

1 Way to Be Found

²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

The Prodigal Father's:
Character
("felt compassion")

Love
(ran, embraced, kissed)

Grace
(Robe and Ring)

To be connected in intimacy,
approval, value, privileges.

1 Way to Be Found

Mark 15:22, 27

And they brought (Jesus) to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull).²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left.

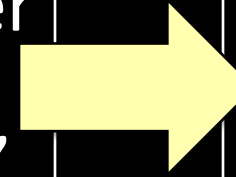
The Prodigal Jesus:

Left His Father's House
Came to our Far Off Country
Took our Place in the Mud
And Shares His Inheritance



Return of the Prodigal Son, Rembrandt, 1669

“I’m am no longer
worthy to be
called your son.”



“For this my son
was dead, and is
alive again”

Full Restoration!

No probation. No second class.

**My worth is based upon his love;
His Love is not based upon my worth.**

Being Found

“Come to Myself”

“Come Home”

“Be Embraced”

Repent of my sins,
and my “inferiority complex”

Repent of my goodness
(how I try to use it for my value),
and my Superiority Complex

1 Prodigal Celebration

²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate....^{30b} the fattened calf.

Home is the center of my being, where I can hear the voice that says, "**You are my beloved. On you my favor rests,**" the same voice that gave life to the first Adam and spoke to Jesus, the second Adam. The same voice that speaks to all the children of God and sets them free to live in the midst of a dark world while remaining in the light.

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

Isaiah 25:6-8

***On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,***

of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸ He will swallow up death forever;

and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

John 4:13-14

Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”