

THE PARABLE

Luke 15:11 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' " 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. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 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. 25 "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' 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. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.' "



October 11 & 12, 2025 | The Father | Luke 15:11 | Joshua Wilhite, pastor

Rule Breaker

Prodigal Son
Outsider
License

Gospel Freedom

Identity
Outlook
Ethic

Rule Keeper

Elder Son
Insider
Legalism

THE HEART OF THE SON

Luke 15:11 And he said...

Jesus shows us what healthy SONSHIP looks like.

1. His identity (how He sees Himself) - BELOVED Son

Matthew 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

John 3:35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

2. His outlook (how He relates to others) - HEIR to the SHARING

Matthew 11:27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father....

John 17:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

3. His ethic (His rule of life) - LOVE

John 15:12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

THE HEART OF THE FATHER

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

1. The Father sent the Son, so we could COME HOME.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

2. The Father embraces us through CHRIST, not conditions.

ASK YOURSELF:

- Am I home?

THE CALL TO COME HOME

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

1. Jesus is the DOORWAY to gospel freedom.

Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give

you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

2. Jesus is the PATHWAY to gospel freedom.

ASK THE LORD:

- Heavenly Father, thank you for your relentless love for us. Jesus, thank you for laying down your life and making a way for us to find life through You. Holy Spirit, thank you for the transformation you are working to accomplish in us. God, help us to stand firm in gospel freedom.

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