



The Prodigal Son

Jesus' Parables

No. 4

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Parable structure

How does the structure look to you?

Parable structure

Sinful son leaves

--> Son lives the high life

--> Son suffers

--> Son repents

Repentant son returns

Reconciliation

Angry brother's outburst

Father explains

Parable's characters



Prodigal Son



Good Son



Father

Parable's literary context

Luke 15:1-2 sets the context

- 3 characters
 - Pharisees
 - Sinners
 - Jesus

Who's who?

Luke 15:3-7 and 15:8-10 build the context

- A lost sheep
- A lost coin

When something lost returns – how does the owner respond?

Parable's social and historical context

Older son, younger son

Mosaic Law

Divisions of society

- Pharisees vs Others
- Sinners – non-religious hedonists, tax-collectors, prostitutes
- (Saducees)

Sons, jobs and inheritance

Mosaic law, cleanliness and holiness

- Jews and Gentiles
- Unclean animals

Eldership, wisdom and dignity

Honour, robes, sandals, parties

Parable's surprises

- Behaviour of the younger son
- Behaviour of the father throughout

- What's not surprising?
 - Behaviour of the older son

Parable's theology

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Parable's theology

God forgives

God shows grace

The fallen can return

The fallen need to return

God expects others to forgive

God expects others to show grace

So the parable's point is?

Dependent on who is reading...

Break time!

DIY Parable

Take the theology and build your own using a contemporary context

Parable's story

Should have:

- 3 key characters or players to demonstrate God, someone lost who repents and an obedient one
- Surprise
- Shared metaphors
- An unfinished element where there is a chance for a decision

Must communicate:

- The foundational nature of God's forgiveness and grace
- The critical requirement to forgive like God