

The Parable of The Prodigal Son: There Is No Understanding the Father's Love Without It!

Aron Osborne

Luke 15:11-32

“...because God is self-existent, His love had no beginning; because He is eternal, His love can have no end; because He is infinite, it has no limit; because He is holy, it is the quintessence of all spotless purity; because He is immense, His love is an incomprehensibly vast, bottomless, shoreless sea.”¹

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is a Declaration of God's Unfailing Love for Us!

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

¹ A.W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy

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.'" – Luke 15:11-32

I. The Prodigal Son

1. The Prodigal Life

2. The Prodigal Misery

3. The Prodigal Poverty of Spirit

II. The "Prodigal" Father

1. The Father's Eagerness

2. The Father's Compassion

3. The Prodigal Father

"There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." – Luke 15:7

III. The Older Brother

1. The Older Brother's Anger

"It is not by our feet, nor by change of place, that we either turn from Thee or to Thee...in darkened affections lies the distance from Thy face."²

2. The Older Brother was even farther away from his Father.

² St. Augustine, Confessions

“The young son had been far from his father (in a distant country) because of his sins of *passion*. But the elder son was separated from his father through sins of *attitude*. He was even farther away than his younger brother and he had not even left the farm!”³

3. Elder Brothers are Lethal!

“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.” – Luke 15:29

IV. Implications for Life and Ministry

1. **All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God!**
2. **No one is beyond the love of the Father!**
3. **Your Father doesn't want to Negotiate with you; He wants to love you!**
4. **This Father's Day, don't settle for less than sonship and daughtership!**

³ R. Kent Hughes