



Happy Father's Day

Don't be afraid to make this journey; remember when God cared for you in Egypt & in the wilderness all the way to this place - JUST LIKE a father carries his son. (Deut. 1:29-31)

PRODIGAL'S DAD

HERE WE HAVE THE FAMOUS PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON.

Parables were usually everyday earthly stories that taught a heavenly truth. Jesus told this story. Even if He were not referring to a specific family, there were lots of farms with fathers and sons in that culture.

Luke 15:11-12

A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me." So, the father divided to them his livelihood.

1. Describe the financial condition of this father, of this family.

2. Describe the possible communication that the father had with the sons within the family. _____

3. Yes No

Did the father comply with the younger son's request?

4. Yes No

Do the verses indicate that the father agreed with this request?

Luke 15:17-19

When the son came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough & to spare, and I am starving to death."

5. What more do we learn about the financial condition of the father?

6. What do we learn about how his father treats people?

7. What does "when the son came to his senses" mean? _____

8. From what you have read so far, the son's problem is the fault of the son or the father.

Luke 15:18-19

The son decided that he would rise and got to his father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."

9. Yes No Even though the son walked out on the family, do you get the feeling that the son expected the father to receive him?

10. Yes No Do you think that the father would listen to him?

11. What do you think the son thinks about the difference between a son and a servant? _____

12. Why did the son think he needed to make a speech of repentance rather than just showing up?

13. What might be the son's definition of a "worthy son"? _____

My definition of "worthy" is "something valuable that belongs regardless of the circumstances." I think the father had the same definition in mind.

14. Compare when the son practiced the speech (Luke 15:19), and what he actually said to his father (Luke 15:21).

What did he not get to say? _____

15. What did the father call him in 15:24? _____

16. Since the "Prodigal" was "a son", what could he never be? (15:19) _____

- The word "father" in Greek means "the patriarch" (the source of the seed).
- The word "son" in Greek means "offspring of the patriarch" (result of the seed).

This is a permanent relationship.

THE BOTTOM LINE

- For the son, "still being a son" was an option for negotiation on the table.
- For the father, "still being a son" was NOT an option for negotiation on the table.
- For the son, **BEHAVIOR & MERIT** could alter or terminate his "position" as a son.
- For the father, **NOTHING** could alter or terminate his son's "position" as a son.

17. How do we know that the father still loved the son? (Luke 15:20)

- a. But when the son was a long way off, his father _____ him, and had _____, and _____, fell on his _____ and _____ him.

18. How do we know that the father still considered him his son? (Luke 15:22-24)

- a. The father said to the servants, "Bring out the best _____ and put it on him; put a _____ on his hand, and _____ on his feet. Bring out the _____ and kill it; let us _____ & be _____"; (15:22-23)
- b. "For this my _____ was dead and is alive again [left and returned]; he was _____ [not non-existent]." And they began to be _____.

A Few Thoughts

- The father saw the son coming when he was far away down the road. I guess he was looking.
- The father's heart melted in compassion for what the son had been through. I guess he cared.
- The father ran down the road where the son was walking. I guess he couldn't wait to hug him.
- The father grabbed the son, hug him around the neck, and kissed him. I guess nothing had changed.
- The father affirmed the value of his son, and his courage to return. I guess it was time to party.

19. Yes No Do you think the title of this story should be "The Parable of the Loving Father" instead of "The Parable of the Prodigal Son"?

20. How would you compare this father's actions with what God does for us?

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- I think we just got to look behind the curtain and see how God feels about us.
 - We don't see Him or necessarily hear Him "looking down the road with a broken heart", "running down the road", "kissing and hugging" or "reaffirming our value to Him".
 - Regardless of how worthless we feel to ourselves, we are valuable to God.

21. In your opinion, how did the son come to the conclusion that he was not valuable anymore?

22. Yes No Do you think the son possibly felt worthless before he left home?

Luke 15:28-30

The older son was angry, and he would not go into the party. "I have served you many years and have never disobeyed you; you never gave me a party with my friends; but as soon as your dishonorable son comes home, you honor him with a family party."

23. What do you think of the older brother's comments?

24. Yes No Do you think that it is possible that the older son felt worthless even before his brother left?

25. How could a supposed Godly home with a Godly father produce two sons that feel like this?

26. Bad communication could be caused by _____ issues with the parents _____ issues with the son
Comment: _____

Luke 15:21

The younger son said, "I have sinned against God and against you, and am no longer worthy to be called your son."

A Few More Thoughts

- The younger son confessed his sin to his father; he sounded sorry.
- The father obviously accepted the confession & forgave him.

27. Yes No Here is a hard question. Did the confession of the son have anything to do with the fact that the son was still the father's son?
28. Yes No If the son had not confessed & ask forgiveness, would he still be considered the father's son (by the father)?
29. Yes No Were there times in your childhood when you did not feel loved by dad?
30. Yes No When you did not feel loved by your dad, did that **prove** that your dad really did not love you?

OUR CULTURE AND OUR SCHEDULE

- The younger son's dad was a busy, working man. *** My dad was an 8 to 5 working man.
- The father had to concentrate on the priorities. *** My dad had to pay the bills & fix the house.
- The father's day was long; he was tired at night. *** My dad came home, ate dinner, and slept.
- The father was the leader & was to be obeyed. *** My dad did it his way; we did it his way too.
- The children had no input in decision-making. *** My dad did not ask my opinion; "go to bed".
- Each day was the same - work & survive. *** Our days were the same: school & survive.

1. A child could grow up in this environment and turn out fine. Agree Disagree
2. A child could grow up in this family setting and crash & burn. Agree Disagree
3. Why does this happen? _____
4. Share your personal "growing up in the family" experience.
- _____
- _____

5. Yes No Is it possible that this Bible father was loving, generous, and honest, but the son never got the picture or saw his father that way?
6. Yes No Is it possible that the father & the son never laid on the front lawn and shared their hopes and dreams and fears with each other?

A Personal Thought

I remember thinking that I wanted my children to be responsible and hard-working. Giving them everything was not the way. Why should I give them stuff that they wanted? I never got the stuff I wanted. I would sometimes be more generous to other people than to my own family. "Why shouldn't I have some fun with my money rather than pay all those bills, pay for kids' clothes and doctor visits."

7. Yes No When I reacted that way to my family, could they possibly know what I was thinking & feeling? It was my baggage, not their's.
8. Yes No Your dad could have been a nice guy but not direct that to you.
9. Yes No Your dad could have been a mean, cruel guy toward you.
10. Your family might have been regular people, had a nice car, ate out periodically, and had a good reputation in the community - yet, you were dying inside. Yes No
Please explain. _____
- _____

