THE PRODIGAL SON

SCRIPTURE - (Luke 15:11-24) Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. {12} "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. {13} "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. {14} "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. {15} "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. {16} "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine 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 bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! {18} 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, {19} "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."' {20} "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. {21} "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' {22} "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. {23} 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; {24} 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

INTRODUCTION

A. THE SETTING - (Luke 15:1-3) Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. {2} And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." {3} So He spoke this parable to them, saying.
B. THE LOST SHEEP - (Luke 15:4-7) "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? {5} "And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. {6} "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' {7} "1 say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.
C. THE LOST COIN - (Luke 15:8-10) "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? {9} "And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' {10} "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."
D. THE LOST SON - the point of this discourse: Jesus came to save sinners, that's why he associates with them - (Luke 19:10) "for the son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

I. THE REQUEST (12) - "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.

A. Give me my portion
B. Both sons given their inheritance

II. THE REBELLION (13) - "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

A. Younger took everything and left
B. Wasted his possessions in wild living

III THE RETRIBUTION (14-16) - "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. {15} "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. {16} "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

A. Famine
B. Began to be in want
C. Fed swine - horrible for a Jew
D. Willing to eat what the pigs ate
E. No one gave him anything

III. THE REFLECTION (17) - "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

A. Came to himself
B. Father's hired servants have plenty to eat
C. I am dying of starvation

V. THE RESOLUTION (18-19) - 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, {19} "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."'

A. I will go to my father
B. Make me as a hired servant

VI. THE REPENTANCE (CHANGE IN ATTITUDE) (21) - "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son."

A. I have sinned
B. I am no longer worthy to be called your son

VII. THE RESTORATION - BRING THE BEST ROBE (20, 22-24) - {20} "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ….. {22} "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. {23} 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; {24} 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

A. Still a long way off
    1. Father saw him
    2. Father had compassion
    3. Father ran fell on his neck and kissed him
B. Clothe him
    1. Best robe
    2. Ring on his hand
    3. Sandals
C. Let's have a party to celebrate (dead/alive & lost/found)
    1. Kill the fatted calf
    2. Eat and be merry

CONCLUSION - ARE YOU A PRODIGAL

A. Request - have you wanted freedom from God and his expectations?
B. Rebellion -have you left God?
C. Retribution - are you experiencing problems away from God?
D. Reflection - have you come to realize life was better with God?
E. Resolution - you need to decide to return to God?
F. Repentance - have you changed your attitude about your direction?
G. Restoration - God is waiting, longing for you to return so he can bless you.