

LOST AND FOUND/DEAD, BUT NOW ALIVE

Luke 15:11-32

- A. As a child, did you ever get so mad at your parents that you decided to “run away” from home? After some time elapsed—usually a few hours at best—you realized that you had no money or skills to secure employment. So, you then decided, either grudgingly or wisely, to go home—especially when hunger “came knocking.”
- B. Because they think that their parents are “too strict,” many children make the poor choice of rebelling against their parents’ authority, some even running away from home.
- C. The Youth Development Centers are full of rebellious children.
- D. On the other hand, some children run away from home to escape mental, physical, and/or emotional abuse.
- E. In some cases, the child receives the help he so desperately needs.
- F. However, in many cases the end is tragic; the child is found dead or grievously harmed or doing the unthinkable as a means of survival, which could result in his being scarred for life.
- G. The parable widely known as the *Prodigal Son* is one of the most endearing lessons in Holy Writ.
- H. Most students of the Bible are familiar with the lesson.
- I. Yes, the key components are not hard to discover in this narrative.
- J. The powerful message is educational, enduring and encouraging.
- K. The actions of the prodigal son parallel our actions from time to time.
- L. The Bible student is reminded in this lesson of the lure, temporary enjoyment, and subsequent destruction of sin.
- M. He is likewise reminded of the benefits of **recognizing** and **repenting** of sin—**remission** of sin and **reconciliation** with the Father.
- N. With these key thoughts in mind, let us enter our study entitled, *Lost and Found/Dead, But Now Alive*.

THE NEGATIVES HE EXHIBITED

I. HE DESIRED THAT FOR WHICH HE DID NOT EARN (vv.11-12)

- A. He did not work for, or earn, his inheritance; it was a gift from his father.
- B. His father, it appears, was a man of sizeable wealth.
- C. His receiving an inheritance was not uncommon among the Jews (Gen.25:5-6).
- D. His request was rooted in covetousness (Luke 12:13-15), disrespect and selfishness.

II. HE DISSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM HIS FATHER (v.13)

- A. He left the authority of his father.
- B. He left the company of his father.
- C. He left the influence of his father.
- D. He left the protection of his father.
- E. He left the support of his father.

III. HE WAS NOT DISCERNING (vv.13-14)

- A. He lived in a “riotous” or “wasteful” manner.
- B. He did not plan for tomorrow, because he spent **all** of his inheritance.
- C. His friends “dried up” in the great famine.
- D. His **enjoyment** or freedom became his **enslavement**.

IV. HE WAS NOW DESTITUTE (vv.14-16)

- A. He became a **beggar**; here were no soup kitchens around at that time.
- B. He became a **burden**; the phrase “joined himself” means that he “forced himself upon” the owner of the pigs.
- C. He was now **desperate** and **dependent** upon those who could care less about him.

D. He list of “friends” was **depleted**--for “no man gave unto him.”

V. HE ACCEPTS A DISHONORABLE AND DISSATISFYING OCCUPATION

- A. His new occupation was one of **degradation**; this once proud Jew is now a servant of a Gentile.
- B. His new occupation was a source of **defilement**; it was unlawful for Jews to eat and keep swine.
- C. His new job reveals his **desperation**; he would have “fain” or “gladly” eaten with the swine.
- D. His **desire** was for something neither delicious nor beneficial; “husks” generally were the covering of grain that was not very nutritional.

THE POSITIVES HE EXHIBITED

I. HIS “RIGHT MIND” RETURNED TO HIM (v.17); the text implies that when one continues in sin, his thoughts are abnormal.

II. HE REMEMBERED THAT THERE WERE BLESSINGS AT HIS FATHER’S HOUSE.

- A. He next **resolved** to rectify his sinful behavior.
- B. He recognized the need to

CONCLUSION

- A. The young man’s plight was the result of his **self-will**. He resented the father’s authority. His rebellious spirit alienated him from his father even while he was yet in his father’s house.
- B. His plight was also the result of self-indulgence.
- C. His problems led to self-inflicted sorrow; (A) hunger (v.14); B) humiliation (vv.15-16); (C) homesickness (v.17).