

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

LUKE CHAPTER 15:8-13

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-659 JULY 27, 2008

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

CHRISTIAN, COME HOME! – PART 1

*THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST,
THE SON OF GOD, AND THE SON OF MAN*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Value, Worth, Salvation, Forgiveness, Repentance

Remembering the Setting.

Jesus is Enroute to Jerusalem and a vast crowd is in tow. Thousands following and the crowd is growing larger, while the scribes and Pharisees cannot endure this message of hope, love and forgiveness!

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...

The Parable of the Shepherd,

that having gone after the wayward lamb to rescue it, Jesus sends a clear message of the value of one human soul.

Luke 19:10

for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

**Combined with the Parable of the Lost Sheep,
Jesus Introduces the Parable of 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.”

Tax Collectors, Sinners and Women...
(Jesus would say, “I’m just getting started)

Luke 15:11-13

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.

Known as the “Most Beloved Parable”

the parable of the prodigal son has brought more hope to more people than any other parabolic illustration that Jesus had employed.

But The Interesting Thing Is This.

The Message here isn’t about how bad this young man was, it’s not about the prodigal son, as much as it is about the power of God to be merciful, patient, generous, forgiving and gracious

CHRISTIAN, COME HOME!

1.) All has been provided for

vs. 11-12

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**.

**Truly, 1 John 4:8 is One of the
Most Remarkable Verses in All of The Bible**
He who does not love does not know God, **for God is love.**

The Bible says of God, **that He is Self-existent**
- so, **His love has never had a beginning.**

The Bible says of God, **that He is Eternal**
- so, **His love will never have an ending.**

The Bible says of God, **that He is Infinite**
- so, **His love can have no limits.**

CHRISTIAN, COME HOME!

ALL HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR

1a.) His love has never been limited toward you vs.11-12

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**.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD'S LOVE
it's **Self-existent, Eternal, Infinite**

His Love is an Unlimited Love

But You and I Live in a Time When "Love"
is Almost Unrecognizable

Because People Don't Know the Love, They Go
About To Create a Love.

His love must be deposited inside of us,
Romans 5:5

the love of God has been **poured out** in our hearts
by the Holy Spirit who was given to every true believer.

When the Young Man Ask's

Verse 11-12

“Father, give me the portion of goods that **falls** to me. **He’s Asking for It Right Now!**”

I Want What I Want When I Want it and I Want it Now!

Proverbs 22:15

Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child.

“I want pleasure, happiness, fun right here, right now”

Every Human Being Has Within Them,
a Pursuit of Heaven – Every One of Us.

WITH OR WITHOUT GOD, MAN WILL ATTEMPT TO BUILD HIS PARADISE

CHRISTIAN, COME HOME!

ALL HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR

1b.) His plan has always included you vs. 12

...the younger son said to his father, “Father,
give me the **portion** of goods that **falls** to me.’”

**Every Loving Dad has a Plan for His Child’s Life
(Even the younger boy)**

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Hey Pop, Let’s Pretend You’re Dead.
whatever I get when you’re dead, I want it now!
(Just like if you were dead)

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way *that seems* right to a man,
But its end *is* the way of death.

The Lord Always Provides a More Excellent Way

Psalm 103:13

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who reverence Him.

CHRISTIAN, COME HOME!

ALL HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR

1c.) His desire has been for you vs. 12c

...So, he (*father*) divided to them (*both*) his (*father*) livelihood.

The Father “Gave” All – He gave his “bios”

In this parable, is stored **The Great Truth...**

if in the parable the father is God, the wayward boy is his child, then what is the Father’s “Purpose for Living” his “Most Valued Possession?”

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He **gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 20:31

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life **through** His name.

Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption **through** His blood, (the cross) even the forgiveness of our sins...

Heart of God
toward all His children is that they might prosper.

“His Livelihood”
is all that the father had worked for and provided in His life

CHRISTIAN, COME HOME!

1.) All has been provided for vs. 11-12

2.) Mercy has been extended vs. 13a

2a.) Even in the prescience of sin vs. 13

And not many days after, the younger son gathered **all** together,

“He Knew Exactly **When** It Would Be Time to Go”

before he “gathered all” his heart had already left home.

When Does Sin Take Hold of Us?

(Once it's settled in the heart & mind)

“I don't know why he keeps doing that”
or “she's saying she doesn't mean it”

HOW DO WE EXERCISE OUR OPPORTUNITIES?

we either do right or wrong with them – that reveals what's inside the heart.

Genesis 3:8-9

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. :9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?”

This Parable Could Have as Easily Revealed God's Holy Wrath & Justice.

Lamentations 3:22

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are **not consumed**, because his compassions fail not.

A Marriage Breaks Up Long Before Someone Walks Out.
these things grow in the heart and mind of person.

Left Unchecked, They Create a Disaster.

MERCY HAS BEEN EXTENDED

2b.) Even though you've wandered far from God vs. 13

journeyed to a far country,

there's something cool about being far from home.
new sounds and sights and smells, interesting languages and foods

...and nobody knows you. strangers will laugh at your jokes,
they see you different and exotic

It's the draw of the city lights,

it's easy for people to adore you when they don't know you
and loving someone you know is much harder than loving those you don't know.

Young Man

watch out for this in life, it can kill you.
it is a powerful rush to the ego and emotions

- *Thomas Huxley*

"a man's day of trouble begins
when he discovers that he can do whatever he wants."

What's Implied Here About a "Far Country"?

there are no restrictions, no curfew, no chores, no mom & dad telling
you what to do....

Did You Think All Was Free,

Fall is Coming and Our Kids are Going Back to School
and some of our kids will be the farthest they have even been from home.

"He Knows **Where**..."

Psalm 139:7-10

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? :8 If I ascend into heaven, you *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*. :9 If I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, :10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

Revelation 2:5

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

MERCY HAS BEEN EXTENDED

2c.) Even if you've made stupid decisions

vs. 13

and there **wasted** his possessions...

Be careful What You ask for, you could wind up having it.

Psalm 106:13-15

Israel soon **forgot** His works; They **did not wait** for His counsel, :14 But instead, they **lusted** exceedingly in the wilderness, And **tested** God in the desert. :15 So He gave them what they had requested, but sent **leanness**
(Thinness, shallowness, apathy) **into their soul.**

At what point did this man become the prodigal?

was it after he had wasted everything? was it when he caught a cab to Vegas?
or was it when "leaving" entered his heart and mind?

all of us have stupid things floating around in our heads. but the goal is to kill those things before they get out.

Luke 15:30

he has devoured his livelihood with harlots,

Proverbs 3:5-9

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; :6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. :7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. :8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. :9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase.

1.) All has been provided for

vs. 11-12

2.) Mercy has been extended

vs. 13a

CHRISTIAN, COME HOME!

3.) Conviction has been upon you

vs. 13b

3a.) Because you've been doing the wrong thing vs. 13

*in far country, and there wasted his possessions...
...with prodigal living.*

prodigal

this word “**prodigal**” is the root of the English “**prodigious**”
which means “a great amount, size or volume of or to have in excess

There's an Interesting Twist Here in Meaning.

the message is about how great god's love is, not how bad the boy is. it's about the **prodigal nature** of God. not the prodigal situation of the young man...

here the Greek word means
to lavish upon, abundantly, generously, extravagantly...

Doesn't That Describe God's Heart for Us?

You See,
this young man went out looking for a good time,
he wanted to live life “large” ... thinking that would fix him!

“To him, whatever felt good – that he did”

Why Does a Young Woman Go from Man to Man
Searching for What She Doesn't Know? – She's Looking for
“Belonging” “Acceptance” “Approval”

I Personally Believe That the Lord has Created Human Beings
*with a desire to a have a full and meaningful life. – But knowing the
Lord is the Answer, the Goal, the Destination.*

**The Issue is "Am I Trying to Obtain That
Meaning to Life by Myself."**

**Prodigal Living Causes Us to Do.
The Wrong Thing**

Doing The Wrong Thing *Will* Hurt

you've been your own counselor. you refused to listen to
those who love you. you've been full of yourself...

Proverbs 14:14

The backslider in heart will be **filled with his own ways,**

This Young Man Is Now
heading for isolation and loneliness
his lifestyle choices will come back to get him.

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not fool yourself, God will not be mocked; for everything a man sows, that is what
he will also harvest. :8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh harvest corruption,
but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit harvest everlasting life.

CONVICTION WILL NOT LEAVE YOU

3b.) Because you've been going to the wrong place vs.13

Listen – Wherever We Go as Christians,
That place will leave an impression on us +/- and we will leave an impression
on that place +/-.

We are Influenced by what we're exposed to.
with that, we influence others

Proverbs 1:10

My son, if sinners entice you, turn your back on them!

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness,
faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

There Are Spiritual Results to Where We Go

Attention Dad, Attention Mom

get back into your kids' life now. find out where they are going and what they're doing, and why and who's going to be there...

dad, love on your daughter by praying for her,
give her a hug and reach for her hand asking her what's going on in her life - it's so important!

*In a far country, and there wasted his possessions...
...with **prodigal** living.*

he attempted to find (grand, abundant, generous, extravagant)
love in the world

the world has no capacity to give it.
we've looked in the wrong places. we tried the wrong things,
we made a mistake

Sy Rogers was asked

"How could you have lived the homosexual lifestyle all those years?"
Sy's answer was a tragic truth - "I so longed for love that I settled for bad love,
because bad love is better than no love."

CONVICTION WILL NOT LEAVE YOU

3c.) Because you've been living the wrong life vs. 13

**The Truth Is.
The God Who Made You,
Has a Better Life for You.**

1 Corinthians 2:9

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

Ephesians 3:19-20

to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the
fullness of God. :20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all
that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

with each of these 3 parables a common line is drawn.
that (#1) sin takes us away from God and that (#2) we are temporarily excited and
stimulated by what sin feels like (#3) then the result of sin has its effect (#4) the
commencement of pain and suffering starts (#5) a decision must be made to stay or to go
back home.

Stop Fighting God & Resisting God

NLT / Amplified Version Proverbs 6:12

A worthless and wicked person is like this: They are continual liars, :13 they reveal
their true intentions to their friends by making signs with their eyes and feet and
fingers. :14 Their perverted hearts enjoy making evil plans. They stir up trouble
everywhere they go. :15 suddenly, they will be destroyed, broken beyond any chance
of finding hope or healing.

***the 1 lost lamb out of the 100 the 1 lost coin out of the 10 the 1 lost son out of the
2 note the deduction from 100 to 2 but each illustration equals 1***

End of Study