



September 23, 2018

Mercy gave the prodigal son a second chance. Grace gave him a feast.

- Max Lucado

**Primary Text:** Luke 15:11-32 (The Prodigal Son)

### 1. Pray (2 mins)

**Pause. Acknowledge you are about to open God's word.**

- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word.

### 2. Warm-Up (20 mins)

**Prepare our minds to receive.**

- How was the homework? Any discoveries you would like to share?
- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what most resonated with you?

### 3. Illuminate (30 mins)

**On the reverse side of this page you will find our text. Use this page to circle/underline/connect.**

- Who is Jesus' audience during this parable? Is this the first parable he has told to this particular audience?
- The prodigal attempts to fully express his remorse to his father, but he is unable to? Why?
- In verse 31, after an angry reaction from the older son, the father still invites his oldest to join the celebration. What is Jesus communicating to us through this father's actions?
- As you get to know the characters in this parable, which character would you liken yourself to? Why?
- What does this parable say about the character of God?
- The truths of the Bible are meant to be shared. Let's close our Bibles and notes and try to walk through this text together as a group from memory.
- Does everyone feel confident in their understanding of this text? Any questions we need to research to answer next week?

### 4. Pray (10 mins)

**Learn about prayer. Close in prayer.**

Nothing seems to be too great, too hard, or too difficult for prayer to do. It has obtained things that seemed impossible and out of reach. It has won victories over fire, air, earth, and water. Prayer opened the Red Sea. Prayer brought water from the rock and bread from heaven. Prayer made the sun stand still. Prayer brought fire from the sky on Elijah's sacrifice. Mary Queen of Scots said, "I fear John Knox's prayers more than an army of ten thousand men."

**- R.C. Sproul on the Power of Prayer**

**TEXT:** Luke 15:11-32 (The Parable of the Prodigal Son)

<sup>11</sup> And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "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! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.' <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> 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.' <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, '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. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

**HOMEWORK:** Ready your heart for Sunday ([Ready resources - warrenbaptist.org/ready](http://warrenbaptist.org/ready)).

**1) Read Luke 16:1-13 (The Parable of the Dishonest Manager) below.**

He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup> And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ <sup>3</sup> And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup> “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. <sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? <sup>13</sup> No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

**2) What do you think Jesus’ main message was in this text? Any questions you need to research further?**

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