I. THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT PRODIGALS HAPPEN.

   A. The story of the profligate son is found in Luke 15:11-32.
      1. We usually think of prodigals as being our kids, but the definition is broader than that.
      2. A profligate refers to anyone who has ever drifted away from their faith.

   B. We can’t always know whether these prodigals ever had a faith.

II. WE ALSO NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE HEART IS THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM.

   A. This is what the Bible tells us—Proverbs 4:23 and Eph. 1:18.
      1. The Biblical word for “heart” doesn’t refer to the organ in our chest that pumps blood.
      2. The heart, as the Bible uses the word, refers instead to the “real you.”

   B. The eyes of our hearts can be either open or closed.
      1. When they are closed we are closed to the light and direction of God.
      2. When our eyes are open, however, we are open to God’s light in our lives.

III. HOW SHOULD WE PRAY FOR OUR PRODIGALS?

   A. We should pray that the eyes of their hearts will be open—Luke 15:17-18.

   B. This is what Ephesians 1:18 tells us to do.
      1. Since we usually can’t argue prodigals back, shame them back or force them back we need to pray them back.
      2. This isn’t something we can do ourselves. Only God can open closed eyes.

   C. The first change, however, that needs to be made in our prodigal’s life might surprise you. We are the ones who need to change first.

   D. Finally we need to be sure our eyes are open too.