

# PARABLES

- OF JESUS -

## WEEK 8 – THE LOST SON

### Luke 15:11-32 [NLT]

<sup>11</sup> To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. <sup>13</sup> “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. <sup>14</sup> About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. <sup>15</sup> He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’

<sup>20</sup> “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

<sup>22</sup> “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. <sup>23</sup> And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

<sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, <sup>26</sup> and he asked one of the servants what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.’

<sup>28</sup> “The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, <sup>29</sup> but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. <sup>30</sup> Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’

<sup>31</sup> “His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

**WANDERING** from our purpose does not remove our purpose.

We’re called to hold a **LOVE** for people that surpasses our opinion of **THEM**.

To love is to **RISK**.

“Love has the kind of power cynicism only wishes it had.”  
- Bob Goff

## SO WHAT?

:: Where have you **BEEN**?

:: What will you **DO**?

:: Who will you **BE**?

### Romans 8:5-8 [NIV]

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

## NOTES:

### How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) *Admitting that you, like everyone, wandered & need to come home.*
- 2) *Asking God to forgive your sins.*
- 3) *Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.*

*You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:*

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.***

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### For Further Reflection:

- :: *Take a moment to reflect on our “Parables of Jesus” series.*
  - :: *What is one thing God has been teaching or re-teaching you?*
  - :: *How have you sought to live differently as a result?*
- :: *Read/Review this week’s parable [The Lost Son]*
  - :: *What do you find most helpful or challenging in this parable?*
  - :: *What do the sons different choices reveal?*
  - :: *What is the youngest son asking for when he finally returns?*
  - :: *What does the father’s response teach us?*
  - :: *Who do you most relate to in this parable? Why?*
  - :: *What does this parable reveal to you about God/yourself?*
- :: *Pastor Shawn said, “To love is to risk.”*
  - :: *What are some tangible implications of risking in love?*
  - :: *What are some potential implications of not risking in love?*
  - :: *Share how you’ve seen this truth play out in your life or someone else*
- :: *Identify 1 way you can more fully live into loving God & others this week.*
- :: *Invite someone you to pray for you & encourage you as you do it.*
- :: *Offer to do the same for them, or someone else.*

***“You can’t go back and change the beginning,  
but you can start where you are and change the ending.”***

*- C. S. Lewis*



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Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].  
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