

The Prodigal!

Luke 15:11-14

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Statistics on missing, lost children and runaways
- Parable of the Lost Sheep: Compassionate heart of God
- Parable of the Lost Coin: Passionate Pursuit of God
- Parable of the Lost Sons: Gracious, Forgiving Heart of God

The Prodigal!

A. The Prodigal in Need—15:11-14

1. The Meaning of “prodigal”—reckless, wasteful
2. The **Making** of the “Prodigal”
 - a. **Asks his father for his portion of the inheritance—v. 12**
 - 1) Importance of inheritance under Mosaic Law
 - 2) Law of Primogeniture: Firstborn received double portion
 - 3) Gifting to your children under the Law
 - 4) Son’s request= wishing the father was dead!!
 - 5) Asks for share of estate = CASH
 - 6) Father’s Response—v. 12
 - a) Cultural response—slap in the face, removal from family
 - b) Legal response—Deuteronomy 21:18-21 “stoning”
 - c) Outrageous response—gives him his “life”
 - b. **Gets out of town as quickly as possible—v. 13**
 - 1) Liquidates his assets—“got together all he had”
 - 2) Run to a “far” country. Code word for “Gentile” land
(Parenthesis: Where’s the elder brother? Why doesn’t he speak up for his father?)
 - c. **“Wasted his possessions with prodigal living”—v. 13**
 - d. **“Severe famine in that land”—v. 14**
 - 1) Our experience with famine is nil
 - 2) Famine common in biblical times
 - 3) Famine as a means of discipline
 - e. **“Began to be in want”—v. 14**
 - 1) First time he has ever experienced “want”
 - 2) Being in “want” not a bad place for it forces us to face life and to make changes.

B. The Prodigal in Me!

1. All of us are prodigals in that we have sinned against God—Ps. 52
2. God, like the father, allows us walk away and sin—Romans 1
3. We “*reap what we sow*”—Galatians 6:7-8
4. Sin produces no lasting satisfaction—Ephesians 4:8-9
5. In our “want” we can turn to God for forgiveness and restoration.