



The Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

Sermon Study Notes

The Psalms present three personal images of God: shepherd, woman, and father.

If the teaching of Jesus is likened to a lake, the famous Parable of the Prodigal Son would be one of the clearest spots where we can see all the way to the bottom.

I. A Shameful Request (15:11-12)

The son dishonors his father.

He's more interested in his father's resources than a relationship.

He's more interested in his father's possessions than his presence.

The son disregards his inheritance.

The son demands his birthright.

The father divides his livelihood.

The father is devoted to his son.

II. A Shameful Rebellion (15:13-14)

Prodigal doesn't mean wayward; it means spendthrift.

The son is enslaved to a horrific bondage from which he is powerless to free himself.

The bondage of our own sin is an infinitely worse imprisonment than we ever imagined the Father's authority to be.

Sin is a bondage we are powerless to break.

III. A Shameful Ruin (15:15-16)

When we sin, we show disdain for God's fatherly love as well as his holy authority.

The Prodigal Son is not merely a picture of the worst of sinners; he is a symbol of *every* unredeemed sinner, alienated from God and without hope in the world.

IV. A Shameful Regret (15:17-19)

The Prodigal's decisions are selfish.

The Prodigal's decisions are shortsighted.

The Prodigal's decisions are stubborn.

Of all the iniquities the Prodigal had engaged in, the one sin with the most potential for evil was the great distance he had put between him and his father.