



*The Prodigal God*  
*Luke 15:11-32*  
*Sermon Study Notes*

Jesus' purpose here is not to warm our hearts, but to shatter our categories.

Everything Jesus says and does in the second half of Luke's Gospel drives the narrative toward the cross.

"The gospel is not a help wanted sign. It's a help available sign." - *John Piper*

God doesn't help those who help themselves. If God only helps those who help themselves, we're all going to hell.

**I. A Shameful Reception (15:20-21)**

The father shows unconditional love.

The father shows unending patience.

The father shows unreserved forgiveness.

The father shows unexpected grace.

The father shows undeserved mercy.

The father shows undignified action.

**II. A Shameful Reconciliation (15:22)**

Repentance in these stories is simply accepting being found.

All the father wants more than relationship is fellowship.

Both of these sons are more interested in the father's wealth than his will.

"Natural man's sin is precisely this: He wants the benefits of God without God Himself." - *R. C. Sproul*

**III. A Shameful Rejoicing (15:23)**

The people do not celebrate the return of the son; they celebrate the reception of the father.

The people do not celebrate the son's arrival; they celebrate the father's acceptance.

This is not the story of a prodigal son; it's the story of a prodigal father.

**IV. A Shameful Restoration (15:24)**

Repentance in Luke 15 is not what you do; it's what God in Jesus Christ has done.

Forgiveness *always* comes at a cost to the one granting the forgiveness.

We must be moved by the sight of what it cost to bring us home.

Jesus Christ laid aside the infinities and immensities of His being, and at the cost of His life, paid the debt for our sins, purchasing us the only place our hearts can rest - in His Father's house.