

**Sermon Text:** Luke 15:11-32

**Sermon Title:** The "Prodigal" Father

**Main Idea:** We are looking at the last story in Luke 15. This message will contrast the two sons' misunderstandings of their father's character: the younger son, who rebels and then seeks forgiveness as a servant, and the older son, who believes he has earned favor through obedience. Both sons are shown to be estranged from their father, with one responding in lawlessness and the other in resentment. The father's extravagant generosity illustrates that God's love and acceptance are based not on human merit but on His generous grace through Jesus.

**Key Resource:** If you have any questions about this message or want to go deeper please check this series of messages out - "The Whole Christ"

[https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/whole-christ?srsltid=AfmBOorHhsO6KG893DJlgrF-koqubjpez0DBvGNxx40wA\\_QLHakogRx](https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/whole-christ?srsltid=AfmBOorHhsO6KG893DJlgrF-koqubjpez0DBvGNxx40wA_QLHakogRx)

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What are some ways familiarity with biblical stories can actually make it more difficult to benefit from them? How could you guard against that?
2. What are some illustrations of what we might miss about this story because of how well we know it?
3. Why is calling this the Parable of the Prodigal Son not the best name for this story? What might be evidence of that?
4. Do we forsake sin in order to come to Christ? Think carefully about this question. (If you want help - please read the following article - <https://www.9marks.org/article/book-review-the-whole-christ-by-sinclair-ferguson/>)
5. How are the two sons in this story different? How are they similar? What role does legalism play in both son's separation from their fathers?
6. How was the younger brother "found"?
7. What does the older son's behavior reveal about his relationship with his father? What are some things he says that show how much he is getting wrong? What is at the heart of what he is missing?
8. In what ways does this story illustrate different ways of being "lost" or "alienated from God"?
9. How does the father's response to both sons contrast with typical human expectations? What stood out to you about his grace?
10. What was the point of looking at Genesis 3 at the end of the message?
11. How do you think this story should shape our understanding of God and the way we live our lives?

**Sermon Notes:** This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.