



PARABLES – THE STORIES JESUS TOLD

Jesus sometimes taught in parables because these vivid stories engage us in thought, emotion, and sensation. They impact us. They force us to go away and ponder, struggling with the meaning perhaps, feeling struck by the truthful and accurate perspective on life they offer. A parable compares something familiar to something unfamiliar. It helps us understand spiritual truth by using everyday objects and relationships. Parables compel us to discover truth, while at the same time concealing the truth from those too lazy or too stubborn to see it. To those who are honestly searching, the truth becomes clear. This series invites transformation as you discover fresh truth about Jesus, yourself, and others.

A Man understands that rebellion can lead to death.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son The Younger Son. - Luke 15:11-32

November 30, 2017
Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

Bible Verses: Luke 15:11-32; Psalm 139; James 1:14-16; Hebrews 12:4-13

Music: Prodigal Son's Prayer – Dierks Bentley

Videos: The Heart of Man (2017) Official Final Trailer

Resources:

1) Parables – The Mysteries of God's Kingdom Revealed Through The Stories Jesus Told by John MacArthur

2) 10 Parables of Jesus: Poking Holes in Religious Balloons by Jamie Buckingham (JB)

Jesus Told Stories

1. _____ > Jesus tells the story of a son who leaves, and then returns home. Returning is a homecoming after a home-leaving, a coming back after having gone away. The father who welcomes his son home is so glad because this son "was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." Only when we have the courage to explore in depth what it means to leave home, can I come to a true understanding of the return.
2. _____ > The son's actions was hurtful, offensive, and in radical contradiction to the most respected tradition of the time. The son's manner of living is tantamount to wishing his father dead. The son asks not only for the division of the inheritance, but also for the right to dispose of his part.
3. _____ > The son's leaving is much more offensive act than it first appears. It is a heartless rejection of the home in which the son was born and nurtured and a break with the most precious tradition carefully upheld by the larger community of which he was a part. The Parable of the Prodigal Son expresses the boundlessness of God's compassionate love. Leaving home is much closer to many of our spiritual experience than we might think! Leaving home is much more than an historical event bound to time and place. It is a denial of the spiritual reality that I belong to God with every part of my being, that God holds me safe in an eternal embrace, that I am indeed carved in the palms of God's hands. Leaving home is the denial of the truth of Psalm 139.
4. _____ > How am I like the younger son? How has defiant rebellion part of my story?

THE VOICE THAT LEADS US AWAY FROM HOME!

1. _____ > For the Prodigal Son, the temptation stage was reached before the story begins. Somewhere along the line a thought occurred to him, "Living at home is a burden. I would be happier away from my father and without all these constraints in my life."
2. _____ > In this parable we meet a young man who is saying, "I gotta get out of here! Here at home I always have to do what father says. I have to work in his fields, eat at his table, follow his rules. I don't want to have to do this anymore. My life would be better if I had no rules. I could be my own boss, I could chart my own course. I gotta get out of here!"
3. _____ :
 - a) When can you remember a time when you faced temptation, considered the consequences, and said no?
 - b) When can you remember a time when you faced temptation and entered in. What was the cost to you and to others because of your decision to "leave home."

THE ACTION THAT LEADS TO DEATH!

1. _____ > There is huge step that moves us from considering and thinking about a temptation to pursuing a foolish path. For the Prodigal Son this step occurred when he went to his father and asked for this inheritance. He had convinced himself that he had a right to his father's property. In truth, the property rightfully belonged to his father, both legally and ethically.
2. _____ > Rationalizing is universal among fallen people. Beware of taking the giant step from temptation into action (James 1:14-16).
3. _____ :
 - a) When you have faced temptation in the past, what has helped you stand strong and resist it?
 - b) What is an area of your life now in which you are standing at a crossroad?

THE PAIN THAT LEADS HOME!

1. _____ > In just a few days the son was packed and ready to go. He knew he would be rejected by the whole community for what he had done, so he takes all he has received from his father and leaves town. Very quickly he squanders it all in wild living. But then he hits the next stage or crossroad—the crossroad of pain. Eventually the son finds himself alone, desperate, and hopeless. It was this place of pain that woke him up to the truth of his condition and the need to return home to the one place he could find healing.
2. _____ :
 - a) The Son finally hits the wall of pain. He decided to stop running. When have you seen that in yourself or another? See Hebrews 12:4-13.
 - b) Describe the son's response to himself? To his father? To his future?
 - c) How has God used the crossroad of pain in your life to bring you back to Him—to come Home?

ACTION: Journal This!

1. When have you seen rebellious behavior?
2. How has God used pain in your life?
3. What keeps you anchored in Home?

Bible Verses – New Living Translation

Luke 15:11-32 - 11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. **12** 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. **13** "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. **14** About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. **15** He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. **16** 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. **17** "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! **18** I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, **19** and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'" **20** "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. **21** 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. **22** "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. **23** And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, **24** 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. **25** "Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, **26** and he asked one of the servants what was going on. **27** 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.' **28** "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, **29** 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. **30** Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!' **31** "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. **32** 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!'"

Psalms 139 - 1 O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. **2** You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. **3** You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. **4** You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. **5** You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. **6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! **7** I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! **8** If I go up to

heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. **9** If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, **10** even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. **11** I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— **12** but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you. **13** You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. **14** Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. **15** You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. **16** You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. **17** How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! **18** I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me! **19** O God, if only you would destroy the wicked! Get out of my life, you murderers! **20** They blaspheme you; your enemies misuse your name. **21** O LORD, shouldn't I hate those who hate you? Shouldn't I despise those who oppose you? **22** Yes, I hate them with total hatred, for your enemies are my enemies. **23** Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. **24** Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

James 1:14-16 - 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. **15** These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. **16** So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters.

Hebrews 12:4-13 - 4 After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. **5** And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. **6** For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." **7** As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? **8** If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. **9** Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? **10** For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. **11** No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. **12** So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. **13** Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.

"Prodigal Son's Prayer"

Dierks Bentley

Father meet me with your arms wide open
The world's done broken your prodigal son
Down the road I traveled
Everything raveled only came undone

Father lead me down to the river
Wash me in the water 'til I'm whiter than snow
I know I'm not worthy
But tell me there's mercy for the wanderin' soul

I lost my way but now I'm on my knees
If it's not too late won't you tell me please
You gotta place for me

A little grace for me

Father meet me in the cool green valley
In all of your glory when my days are done
Name me as one of your chosen
Heaven's unbroken prodigal son

Father meet me with your arms wide open
Lead me down to the river
Meet me in the cool green valley

Name me one of your chosen
Heaven's unbroken prodigal son

Philip K. Hardin, M.A., M.Div.

Director of Business & Professional Outreach, Intl.
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist & Licensed Professional Counselor
Email: phil@bpintl.org Webpage: www.bpintl.org

par • a • ble(s)

an earthly story

with a spiritual truth



PARABLES – THE STORIES JESUS TOLD

Jesus sometimes taught in parables because these vivid stories engage us in thought, emotion, and sensation. They impact us. They force us to go away and ponder, struggling with the meaning perhaps, feeling struck by the truthful and accurate perspective on life they offer. A parable compares something familiar to something unfamiliar. It helps us understand spiritual truth by using everyday objects and relationships. Parables compel us to discover truth, while at the same time concealing the truth from those too lazy or too stubborn to see it. To those who are honestly searching, the truth becomes clear. This series invites transformation as you discover fresh truth about Jesus, yourself, and others.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

The Younger Son

Luke 15:11-32

Jesus Told Stories

1. **Tell Stories** > Jesus tells the story of a son who leaves, and then returns home. Returning is a homecoming after a home-leaving, a coming back after having gone away. The father who welcomes his son home is so glad because this son “was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” Only when we have the courage to explore in depth what it means to leave home, can I come to a true understanding of the return.
2. **Mystery of Compassion!** > The son’s actions was hurtful, offensive, and in radical contradiction to the most respected tradition of the time. The son’s manner of living is tantamount to wishing his father dead. The son asks not only for the division of the inheritance, but also for the right to dispose of his part.
3. **“I’m leaving!”** > The son’s leaving is much more offensive act than it first appears. It is a heartless rejection of the home in which the son was born and nurtured and a break with the most precious tradition carefully upheld by the larger community of which he was a part. The Parable of the Prodigal Son expresses the boundlessness of God’s compassionate love. Leaving home is much closer to many of our spiritual experience than we might think! Leaving home is much more than an historical event bound to time and place. It is a denial of the spiritual reality that I belong to God with every part of my being, that God holds me safe in an eternal embrace, that I am indeed carved in the palms of God’s hands. Leaving home is the denial of the truth of Psalm 139.
4. **Questions** > How am I like the younger son? How has defiant rebellion part of my story?

THE VOICE THAT LEADS US AWAY FROM HOME!

1. **TEMPTATION** > For the Prodigal Son, the temptation stage was reached before the story begins. Somewhere along the line a thought occurred to him, “Living at home is a burden. I would be happier away from my father and without all these constraints in my life.”
2. **“Stink ‘in Think ‘in”** > In this parable we meet a young man who is saying, “I gotta get out of here! Here at home I always have to do what father says. I have to work in his fields, eat at his table, follow his rules. I don’t want to have to do this anymore. My life would be better if I had no rules. I could be my own boss, I could chart my own course. I gotta get out of here!”
3. **Questions to Consider:**
 1. When can you remember a time when you faced temptation, considered the consequences, and said no?
 2. When can you remember a time when you faced temptation and entered in. What was the cost to you and to others because of your decision to “leave home.”

THE ACTION THAT LEADS TO DEATH!

1. **A Sinful Course of Action** > There is huge step that moves us from considering and thinking about a temptation to pursuing a foolish path. For the Prodigal Son this step occurred when he went to his father and asked for this inheritance. He had convinced himself that he had a right to his father's property. In truth, the property rightfully belonged to his father, both legally and ethically.
2. **Rationalizing Behavior** > Rationalizing is universal among fallen people. Beware of taking the giant step from temptation into action (James 1:14-16).
3. **Questions to Consider:**
 1. When you have faced temptation in the past, what has helped you stand strong and resist it?
 2. What is an area of your life now in which you are standing at a crossroad?

THE PAIN THAT LEADS HOME!

1. **EMBRACE THE PAIN** > In just a few days the son was packed and ready to go. He knew he would be rejected by the whole community for what he had done, so he takes all he has received from his father and leaves town. Very quickly he squanders it all in wild living. But then he hits the next stage or crossroad—the crossroad of pain. Eventually the son finds himself alone, desperate, and hopeless. It was this place of pain that woke him up to the truth of his condition and the need to return home to the one place he could find healing.
2. **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**
 1. The Son finally hits the wall of pain. He decided to stop running. When have you seen that in yourself or another? See Hebrews 12:4-13.
 2. Describe the son's response to himself? To his father? To his future?
 3. How has God used the crossroad of pain in your life to bring you back to Him—to come Home?

ACTION: Journal This!

1. When have you seen rebellious behavior?
2. How has God used pain in your life?
3. What keeps you anchored in Home?