



Luke 15:11-32

3• Parable of the Lost Son (15:11-32)

Father

Sinful Son

Leaves his father with his share of the inheritance.

Wastes everything in immoral living and encounters poverty.

Returning home, **humbled** and barely hopeful, he finds welcome as a son.

Applications:

1) God is excited of the repentant sinner that comes home and wants us to enter into that joy.

2) God is exposing the pride of the morally upright religious people that prevent them from caring for the lost.

Obedient Son

Stays with his father enjoying all that his father possessed.

Conserves everything in moral living and enjoys what his father enjoys.

Always at home, **indignant** at his father's treatment of his brother.

A Modern Misinterpretation

I heard one person explain this parable as showing how God welcomes everyone to His presence. He doesn't care what we have done in the past. He seeks us as the father sought his son.

But frankly we need to see that is not what this parable is teaching. There is a difference between the happy sinner and the repentant sinner. The happy sinner would not have returned home. The father of course had compassion even from afar off, but the son's return was a signal of humbling. It was a sign that there has been sufficient change in his heart that made him once again respect his father and his position.

Balancing God's Word

An open look at these three parables force open some of our closed doctrines.

The Calvinists, for example, have to face a problem with their teaching. They have to combine two truths:

- the elect will be saved and
- the lost must be searched for.

Many have eliminated the zealous search because of their errant doctrinal conclusions. The lost will be found but evidently only through our compassionate zeal.



Has our evangelistic compassion witness yet moved us to diligently search for the lost? Do we really care?