

IV. ACCEPT YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S FAMILY

A. God adopts you into His family.

“And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ Luke 15:21

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’” Romans 8:15

B. You become a fully functioning part of His family.

- The robe is a picture of salvation.
“22 ‘But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him...’ Luke 15:22a

“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, ...” Isaiah 61:10a
- The ring is a picture of sonship.
“...and put a ring on his hand... “ Luke 15:22b

“and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,...” Romans 8:17a
- The sandals are a picture of service.
“...and sandals on his feet....” Luke 15:22c

“... ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,’” Romans 10:15b
- The calf is a picture of status.
*23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;
24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.”* Luke 15:23-24

“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

Experience God's Unconditional Love

JESUS' STORIES

The Story Of The Prodigal Son

Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

- A.** Jesus was a master story teller. The stories He told were called “Parables.” A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Jesus explained why he told these stories,
“And the disciples came and said to Him, ‘Why do You speak to them in parables? He answered and said to them, Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given’”. Matthew 13:10-11
He used common subjects and every day experiences to reveal deep truths about God, His kingdom and ourselves.
- B.** There are approximately forty parables in Matthew, Mark and Luke that Jesus taught. This teaching series will focus on eight of these parables that reveal valuable lessons for building your story today. The messages include:
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|--------|---|
| Feb 20 | The Story Of The Wise & Foolish Builders |
| Feb 27 | The Story Of The Sower, Seed & Soils |
| Mar 6 | The Story Of The Good Samaritan |
| Mar 13 | The Stories Of The Hidden Treasure & The Pearl Of Great Price |
| Mar 20 | The Story Of The Talents |
| TODAY | The Story Of The Prodigal Son |
| Apr 3 | The Story Of The Rich Man & Lazarus |
| Apr 10 | The Story Of The Great Feast |
- Come and hear these messages learn valuable lessons for building your story today.
- C. TEXT:** Luke 15:11-24
The Actors:
- The father represents God.
 - The younger son represents you and me.
 - The farmer represents when we look to something or someone else to meet our needs.
 - The pigs represent the results of running from God.
 - The robe, ring, sandals and calf are gifts the father gave his son.
- The Lesson: Experience God's unconditional love.

HOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

I. ADMIT YOU HAVE RUN AWAY FROM GOD

A “prodigal” is someone who leaves a better way of living for a lesser way of living.

A. All of us are prodigals.

*“11 Then He said: “A certain man had two sons.
12 And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood.
13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.*

Luke 15:11-13

“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:6

B. Prodigal living is hard.

*14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.
15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.
16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.”*

Luke 15:14-16

“Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.” Proverbs 13:15

Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay and cost you more that you want to pay.

II. DECIDE TO RETURN HOME TO GOD

A. God gave you a free will which requires you to make a choice to return home.

*“17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!
18 I will arise and go to my father,...”* Luke 15:17-18a

B. Choose to confess and forsake your sin..

*“18...and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,
19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” ’
20 “And he arose and came to his father....”*

Luke 15:18b-20a

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

Proverbs 28:13

III. RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FROM GOD

A. God sees you and desires to bring you home.

“...But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him...” Luke 15:20b

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,” I Peter 3:18

B. God has compassion for you so believe in His name.

“...and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.” Luke 15:20c

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:” John 1:12