

THE FATHER AND HIS TWO LOST SONS, PART 1

Luke 15:11-24

This story is primarily about the _____ and his response to his prodigal son and his self-righteous son
The younger son is a portrait of the _____ human nature with which all of us are born

I. THE NATURE OF SIN

A. THE ROOTS OF SIN

- 1) The Overriding Desire for _____
 - a) The younger son was motivated by self-law or self-rule—a determination to _____ his own life
 - b) The younger son asked for his inheritance _____ his father died, a request unusual then as now
 - c) The inheritance took the form of _____ and livestock, which he converted to cash to get out of town
 - d) By nature all human beings want to cast off the authority of God and live as if He were _____
 - e) Although human beings want to live as if God does not exist, we want all the good things He _____
 - f) The father in the story agreed to these unreasonable demands, picturing the _____ of God
- 2) An Inordinate Desire for _____
 - a) “Wasted” in v.13 indicates that the younger son spent money so fast he _____ it to the winds
 - b) “Prodigal” in v.13 means “not-saving-ness”—he spent with no thought of saving anything for _____
 - c) While there is nothing to indicate sexual immorality, what is implied is a headlong pursuit of _____
 - d) Human beings cast off the authority of God so that they can pursue sinful pleasures without _____
 - e) When we spend our lives pursuing pleasure rather than God, we _____ our lives rather than save them

B. THE FRUITS OF SIN

- 1) Sin Complicates and Shatters Interpersonal _____
 - a) The younger son took steps to cut all ties to his _____, his religion and his ethnic identity
 - b) The end of the story obviously indicates a strained relationship between the two _____
 - c) Though the story takes a twist we expect that the prodigal damaged his relationship with his _____
 - d) Sin always ties relationships in _____ and sometimes it can damage them beyond repair
- 2) Sin _____ and It is a Hard Taskmaster
 - a) Sin is so successful in enslaving human beings because there is pleasure in sin for a _____
 - b) Often the circumstances of _____ (famine in this case) compound the misery caused by sin
 - c) The younger son in the pigsty with the pigs pictures the truth, “The way of the transgressor is _____”
 - d) He was worse off than a _____; he was day laborer who found work some days but not others
 - e) His near starvation pictures the gnawing desire of the sins of _____ that cannot be satisfied
- 3) Sin _____ Us and Paints Us into a Corner
 - a) The younger son ended up working for a _____ because he was ashamed to ask local Jews for help
 - b) Shame often cuts us off from the _____ we need and keeps us in an ever-deepening cycle of failure

II. THE NATURE OF REPENTANCE

III. THE NATURE OF GOD