

# *The Prodigal!*

**Luke 15:11-14**

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- Statistics on missing, lost children and runaways
- Parable of the Lost Sheep: Compassionate heart of God
- Parable of the Lost Coin: Passionate Pursuit of God
- Parable of the Lost Sons: Gracious, Forgiving Heart of God

## *The Prodigal!*

### **A. The Prodigal in Need—15:11-14**

1. The Meaning of “prodigal”—reckless, wasteful
2. The **Making** of the “Prodigal”
  - a. **Asks his father for his portion of the inheritance—v. 12**
    - 1) Importance of inheritance under Mosaic Law
    - 2) Law of Primogeniture: Firstborn received double portion
    - 3) Gifting to your children under the Law
    - 4) Son’s request= wishing the father was dead!!
    - 5) Asks for share of estate = CASH
    - 6) Father’s Response—v. 12
      - a) Cultural response—slap in the face, removal from family
      - b) Legal response—Deuteronomy 21:18-21 “stoning”
      - c) Outrageous response—gives him his “life”
  - b. **Gets out of town as quickly as possible—v. 13**
    - 1) Liquidates his assets—“got together all he had”
    - 2) Run to a “far” country. Code word for “Gentile” land  
(Parenthesis: Where’s the elder brother? Why doesn’t he speak up for his father?)
  - c. **“Wasted his possessions with prodigal living”—v. 13**
  - d. **“Severe famine in that land”—v. 14**
    - 1) Our experience with famine is nil
    - 2) Famine common in biblical times
    - 3) Famine as a means of discipline
  - e. **“Began to be in want”—v. 14**
    - 1) First time he has ever experienced “want”
    - 2) Being in “want” not a bad place for it forces us to face life and to make changes.

### **B. The Prodigal in Me!**

1. All of us are prodigals in that we have sinned against God—Ps. 52
2. God, like the father, allows us walk away and sin—Romans 1
3. We “*reap what we sow*”—Galatians 6:7-8
4. Sin produces no lasting satisfaction—Ephesians 4:8-9
5. In our “want” we can turn to God for forgiveness and restoration.