

I. Read Luke 15:11-24

- A. This passage describes the remarkable parable of the prodigal son. According to the New Geneva Study Bible:

“The firstborn son was entitled to two-thirds of his father’s property (Deuteronomy 21:17). Sometimes the father would give the capital (which meant that he could not dispose of it himself, though the son could sell it) and return the income (if the son sold the capital, the buyer could not take possession until the father’s death). But to give the capital to one of the sons as in this parable was unusual.”

- B. What is the central theme of this parable?
- C. How does this theme relate to God’s willingness to forgive a repentant sinner?
- D. In verses 11-13, how is the essence of sin’s power portrayed? How does James 1:13-15 describe the same thing?
- E. How does Paul explain the struggle he faced? (Read Romans 7:14-25.)
- F. What term do we use to refer to the spiritual struggle in which we slowly, yet progressively, become more Christ-like?
- G. Would the younger son in the parable of Luke 15 represent a believer or an unbeliever?
- H. In Luke 15:14-16, we read of the depths one caught up in sinful behavior may fall to. Read 2 Peter 2:18-22 and explain the consequence for one who knows the truth, yet chooses to stray.

- I. In Luke 15:17-20, the prodigal son's repentance is described. In what way does it model true repentance for all men?

- J. What is the key element of repentance?

- K. What aspect of the process of repentance is portrayed in Luke 15:18b-19?

- L. What was the father's response to the repentance of the prodigal son?

- M. What is God's response to us as we confess our sins to Him? (1 John 1:8-9)