

THE LOVING FATHER
Text: Luke 15:11-32

INTRO: We have studied this text previously from 2 viewpoints: that of the young wasteful son, & that of the older son. Let us now take note of what this parable teaches us concerning the loving father.

I. HIS UNSELFISH LOVE, vs. 12.

II. HIS KINDNESS TO THE ERRING, vs. 13-24.

III. HIS LOVE FOR THE RIGHTEOUS, vs 37.

IV. HIS FORGIVING SPIRIT, vs. 32.

V. THE PARABLE EXAMINED.

A. The prodigal son represents the rebellious one who is disobedient & immoral, vs. 1-2.

B. The older son represents the unforgiving, self-righteous "holier than thou" Pharisees.

C. The loving father represents God, whose love extends to all alike.

D. Each erring child of God must, like the prodigal son:

1. Realize his sinful condition.
2. Repent of his sinful life or attitude.

3. Ask forgiveness.

CONCLUSION: If you have never obeyed the gospel of Christ, you need to become a child of God by being born of water & the spirit, John 3:3-5; Rom 6:3-5.

If you are a child of God but have sinned after the likeness of either of the sons Jesus tells us about in this parable, if you realize your sinful condition, return to the Father & He will welcome you home with open arms.

Cox Springs, TX, June 11, 1967

Springhill, LA, June 23, 1974

Exton, PA, December 3, 1989

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 14, 1993

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 26, 2005