

The Scope Of God's Grace
Luke 15:11-31

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1. Jesus told a story about a young man who made a wrong decision and what happened to him as a result. We call it the parable of the prodigal son.
2. In order to understand the parable, we need to start with **verse 1: "Now the tax collectors and 'sinners' were all gathering around to hear him."**

I. Let's begin with the younger son. (Luke 15:11-12)

- A. The younger son fumes under his father's rule.
- B. Four Steps to the Pigpen.
 1. He was selfish.
 2. He acted hastily.
 3. He wasted everything he had.
 4. He made a long string of bad decisions.
- C. In **verse 14**, there was a famine in the distant country.

II. How does one return home? (Luke 15:17-20)

Five words tell the story.

- A. First, there was an **awakening**. **Verse 17, "Bhe came to his senses,"**
- B. Second, there was **repentance**. **Verse 18, "I will go back to my father."**
- C. Third, there was **honesty**. **Verse 18, "I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."**
- D. Fourth, there was **humility**. **Verse 19, "I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men."**
- E. Fifth, there was **resolution**. **Verse 20, "So he got up and went to his father."**

III. Consider the father's welcome. (Luke 15:20-24)

- A. **Verse 20** says that while he was still a long way off, his father saw him.
- B. In that one moment all questions were answered.
Verse 21, "I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."
- C. Notice the five signs of the father's welcome:
 1. The kiss - represented forgiveness.
 2. The best robe - a status symbol.
 3. The ring - a sign of authority.
 4. The sandals - a sign of freedom. Only slaves went barefoot.
 5. The feast, the sign of a joyful welcome - reserved for special occasions.

IV. "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field." (Luke 15:25-32)

- A. The older brother refused to join in the celebration.
- B. Three marks of self righteousness.
 1. There is a sense of being treated unfairly.
 2. The second mark is a feeling of superiority.
 3. The third mark is contempt for others.