

# THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PRODIGAL

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-7

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Introduction:

1. Fathers are not perfect, but they have a great love for their children and always seek their best interest.
2. Our heavenly Father is perfect in all His ways. Today in our lesson, we focus on Him.

Proposition: We see the love of the Father through the eyes of the prodigal son.

Interrogative: What can we learn of the love of the Father from the prodigal?

Transition: In this lesson we will see 3 characteristics of the Fathers' love...

## **I. THE FATHER HOLDS NO ONE AGAINST THEIR WILL –vs. 11-16**

### **A. HE LET THE PRODIGAL GO UPON ASKING**

1. The Father divided up the goods and let him go his way.
2. The son wastes his inheritance and begins to be in want.
3. The son hits rock bottom and looks back to the Father.

### **B. WE SERVE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER BY CHOICE**

1. God has always given man a choice –De 30:19-20, Jo 24:15, Ez 18:30-32, Mt 7:13-14
2. Christians have a choice to make today –1Co 15:1-4, Re 2:10

## **II. THE FATHER REJOICES IN REPENTANCE –vs. 17-24**

### **A. THE SON'S HEART OF REPENTANCE**

1. He practiced his speech - vs. 18-19
2. He went back to the Father in humility and with a penitent heart.

### **B. THE FATHER'S RESPONSE**

1. Heart full of compassion
2. Would not hear the rehearsed speech, but rather ordered a feast to be made in His son's honor.
3. The Father longs for the lost to repent and come to Him -2Pe 3:9, 1Ti 2:3-4

## **III. THE FATHER WANTS ALL TO REJOICE –vs. 25-32**

### **A. THE FATHER LEAVES THE PARTY**

1. When the oldest son refused to come in
  - a. He wants the best from His followers
  - b. He desires the oldest son to be loving and forgiving
2. To listen and correct the oldest brothers thinking
  - a. The oldest son makes his plea - vs. 29-30
  - b. The Father responds - vs. 31-32
3. The older brother represents the Pharisees and scribes mentioned earlier –Lk 15:1-2

### **B. CHRISTIANS TODAY ARE TO REJOICE**

1. We seek to restore the wandering –2Co 2:6-11, Ga 6:1, Ja 5:19-20, Jude 1:22-23
2. We must avoid the attitude of the scribes and Pharisees –Note: Jn 8:1-12 (specifically vs. 3, 7)

Conclusion:

1. We must have the love of the Father for the lost in our hearts.
2. God desires all to be saved. Extend the invitation to any that are not Christians.