

The prodigal Father.

Prodigal: Spending money or resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant

One of the greatest errors that commentators make in Bible reviews is to focus on the “prodigal son” rather than the Prodigal Father. Jesus told this parable to illustrate the prodigality of the Father about which both they and we, are often desperately ignorant.

The younger son represents a life wasted in rebellion and foolish sinful living. The elder son represents a life wasted in trying to earn the love and favor of a freely loving Father. The prodigal Father freely and recklessly and extravagantly poured out His love on **BOTH SONS**. Neither is rejected. Neither needed to **earn** the Father's love and favor. The prodigal Father recklessly gives life and love to all.

The younger one was surprised to discover how much his father loved him. The older one was also clueless concerning the extravagance of the father's love and we are not sure he ever really understood or embraced the prodigal Father's love for either his brother or for himself. Any failure to receive that love cripples even sons to love as the Father loves..... as this story illustrates.

It is a wonderful story; it is both glorious and sad.

The prodigal Father is glorious. The ignorance and self-centeredness of His sons was and is exceedingly sad.

The Scriptures declare that He [Jesus, at Father's request] “*came to His own and His own did not receive Him.*” [Jn.1:12] They utterly failed to understand and receive the love of the Father then and even today His love gift is often ignored or rejected.

Thankfully, He is still coming to His own and STILL TODAY, “*as many as will receive Him,*” to them “*He gives the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who are born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*” [Jn.1:12-13] The Prodigal Father makes them sons of God.....with all the rights, favors, and privileges of the sons of the KING. Now.....**that is prodigality at it best** – or worst – **IT SIMPLY IS freely, wastefully, extravagantly, recklessly WONDERFUL!**

Do you believe in this prodigal Father..... or do you see God as a stern stickler about silly laws who is systematically stingy, and an almost constantly angry God?

Have you met and do you know the Prodigal Father? Are you continually receiving the extravagant love-gifts from your Father? He has more of everything good for you than you can possibly imagine. That is why Jesus told this parable about the Prodigal Father.

We all need to know Him better.... and that is exactly what HE WANTS!

Pause right now and thank HIM for all He has done for you. If you ever get done with that song of thanksgiving, then enter into a time of worship of the Prodigal Father, and love Him back cuz He rejoices in that as well as in our worship!

Psalms 34:1-3 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Super blessings and love,

George

Hey...it's a poorly kept secret, but Becky VanVliet is getting married to Laszlo Zsemlye week-after-next. Just thought that you should know so that you can tease her on Sunday.