

The parable teaches

1. How to repent and be released of sins

2. Our nature

Impatient

3. God's nature

Patient

The younger son's problem

1. Who is he?

2. What does he want?

A. Quickly to inherit his father's property

B. To be independent of his father

12 Why does the father so readily give the inheritance?

1. Looks like the father is "spoiling" the son!

2. But it is not what it looks like.

3. He is going to lose it all.

4. But the father does not mind.

13 The "far country?"

1. What is there?

A deception of satan

A. Hunger, thirst

B. Lack, shortage, emptiness

C. Loneliness, isolation

D. Sadness, pain, grief

2. What does the son think?

He thinks he knows everything

- A. “Nobody knows me.”
- B. “I can hide.”
- C. “I can do whatever I want.”
- D. “I can fulfill my desires.”
- E. “I am focused on myself.”

3. What does he find?

After learning “the hard way”

- A. “I am far from myself.”
- B. “I am far from my home.”
- C. “I am much worse off.”

14 The “severe famine?”

1. He wanted to be full, filled with everything

- A. But he lost everything.
- B. This is the rule, not the exception.
“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
(Matthew 16:25)

2. That alien land is barren, rotten

15 The “citizen of that country?”

Representative of the “Prince of the World”

15 The “fields to feed swine?”

“swine” = “pigs”

- 1. Pigs: defilement**
- 2. Feeding Pigs: servant of defilement**

16 The pods the pigs were feeding on

1. Fake food, junk food

What happens to yourself when you feed your heart the rubbish from the secular media?

2. Noxious, toxic food

- A. The pod is called “old man’s fat toe.”
- B. The pod resembles a big fat toe.
- C. The shell is hard and not easy to open.
- D. A bad smell comes from the flesh around the seeds.
- E. The material inside is dry, hairy, dusty, and yellow.
- F. When the shell is opened, a smell is released that could be described as being almost unbearable.
- G. In historical literature, this fruit is used in magic, witchcraft, and hex potions.

17 He came to his senses, felt guilty.

1. He recognized his abased condition.

- A. Isolated
- B. Hungry
- C. Ashamed

2. He compared his reality to the great picture of the father’s servants

- A. He realized that his father’s servants are a united family, one body, filled, feeling great.
- B. The reason that pushed him back to his father was his own comfort.
- C. Nevertheless, the father accepted it anyway as a first step.

3. He feels guilty.

- A. To feel guilty, in and of itself, is not a good thing.
- B. It is not particularly helpful.
- C. It is merely the first step.
- D. It is useful as the first step to be freed of guilty feelings.
- E. I have no use for wallowing in guilty feelings.
I would rather wallow in the waters of repentance!

17-19 He confessed to himself.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ‘I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, “and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’

(Luke 15:17-19)

1. He came to his senses.
2. He came to himself.
3. He accepted his sin and his situation in details.

19 He contemplates abdicating.

“Receive me as one of your hired servants.”

✠ *The father would not hear this* ✠

20 He got up and went to his father.

1. Man consists of spirit, mind, and body.

“These people draw near with their mouths
And honor Me with their lips,
But their hearts are far from Me,
And their fear of Me is the rule of men.”
(Isaiah 29:13)

2. Thinking is not sufficient.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. “You outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (Mt 23:27-28)

Prodigal Son Parable

3. **Bravo, the son changed thought into action.**

He was still only thinking of his stomach, but the father saw him from afar and ran toward him to accept his weak repentance.

20 **Father sees him from afar.**

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

(Luke 15:20)

1. **The son took the first step**

2. **The second step is hard.**

3. **Father ran and “fell on his neck”**

Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and **fell on his neck** and kissed him, and they wept. (Genesis 33:4)

Then he **fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck** and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. (Genesis 45:14)

So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and **fell on his neck** and wept on his neck a good while. (Genesis 46:29)

21 **He confessed before his father and before heaven.**

“And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

(Luke 15:21)

1. **The son was about to say, “Make me as one of your hired servants.”**

2. **The father did not let him finish!**

22-24 **Gifts**

✠ *Royal Gifts* ✠

✠ *The father would not let him abdicate.* ✠

1. **Robe**

Original Estate, Royalty, Grace, Reconciliation

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27)

Note: NKJV **best** is Greek S4413 **πρῶτος** = **first, original**

Prodigal Son Parable

2. Ring

Seal, Royalty

“He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

3. Sandals

Enlightenment, Path

“Shoe your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”
(Ephesians 6:15)

4. Feast

Sacrifice, Sign of Covenant, Communion, Unity, Satisfying Food

“This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.” (John 6:58)

25-32 What about the elder son?

“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ **BUT HE WAS ANGRY AND WOULD NOT GO IN.** Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. ‘It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

(Luke 15:25-32)

1. Is he OK?

2. No. HE IS LOST!

3. He is behaving like a hired hand, not a royal heir.

Conclusion

1. How to be satisfied?

- A. Triune God created us in His image.
“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.”
(Genesis 1:26)
 - i. Trinity and Unity
Unity ≠ Singularity
 - ii. Spirit, Mind, Body
- B. Triune God is the source of triune food that we need.
“Not by bread alone” (Mt 4:4)
“Heavenly Manna” (Jn 6:58)
“heart, soul, strength, mind”
(Lk 10:27)
 - i. Spiritual food: heart, soul
 - ii. Mental food: mind
 - iii. Physical food: body, strength
- C. Do not be a hypocrite. Be integrated.
“For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.” (1 Cor 11:29)
 - i. Be honest with yourself
 - ii. Heart, Mind, Soul, Body

2. How to be a son?

- A. Experience of change, daily.
- B. Return to your self that:
 - i. You lost in the beginning.
 - ii. God gave you.
- C. Being in **image of God** is a gift. Choosing to **behave in the likeness of God** is our work.

3. Repentance

- A. Pillar of Christianity.
- B. Μετάνοια «*Metanoia*»
«New Mind»
- C. Think again.
Come to your senses.
- D. Change direction.
Turn and go to the Father.

4. How to Repent?

- A. Quiet time.
Be honest with yourself.
- B. Make a decision.
Humility (I did wrong) (cross)
 - i. What shall I do?
 - a. Stop feeding the pigs
«The Abomination of Desolation»
Daniel 11:31; 12:11
Matthew 24:15
Mark 13:14
 - b. Go back to my father
 - ii. When should I do it?
 - a. This decision **SHOULD NOT BE POSTPONED.**
 - b. When I know my sins:
 - 1) I must take this step.
 - 2) **TODAY ~ NOT TOMORROW**
 - 3) **NOW ~ NOT LATER**
 - c. If I wait?
 - 1) I lose.
 - 2) I will be lost.

Prodigal Son Parable

- C. Do not postpone, even for a moment.
Arise (without delay).

5. Honest Reconciliation

- A. Face yourself (I sinned)
B. Face your neighbor (I sinned)
C. Face your father (of confession)
D. Face your Father (in Heaven)

βιβλιογραφικές αναφορές:

- Ο Αρσάνιος Ο Σοφός
- Ο Άγγελος Ο Πολυτοπος
- Ο Αντώνιος Ο Γλυκός