THE PARABLES OF THE JOY OF FINDING

PART II
Luke 15:11-19

MAIN THOUGHT These three parables reveal God’s attitude toward sinners in contrast to that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law.

THE LOST SON (15:11-32).

REBELLION (11-16).

• In an act of rebellion, the younger of two sons asks his father for an early inheritance so he could become independent and separate (Isa. 53:6).
• By custom the older son would get twice and the younger half (Deut. 21:17).
• So the father let him enroll in the school of hard knocks (Psa. 106:14-15).
• Soon he left home for a distant country. The sheep was lost from foolishness, the coin from carelessness, the son from willfulness.
• There he was separated (squandered) from his money like separating wheat from chaff (Prov. 21:20). He was winnowed.
• Unlike Moses (Heb. 11:25), he did this through wild (Gk=a – alpha privative/ negation; soozoo – to save) or prodigious living hence the prodigal son.
• Failing to prepare for the worst (Gen. 41:48) and spending all he had on pleasure (Jam. 4:3), famine came on the land and he was in need.
• Rather than returning home to his rich father (Phil. 4:19), he turned to the world and fed pigs (unclean – Deut. 14:8) and no one would enable (help) him.

REPTENCE (17-19).

• The school of hard knocks had done its work – he came to his senses (1 Cor. 15:33-34; 2 Tim. 2:24-26). He changed his mind. He repented.
• He concluded (Gk=ergo – therefore) using logic that his fathers hired men have food to spare while he is perishing (John 3:16).
• He made a thought out plan – what a concept! I will return (Isa. 51:11; Mal. 3:7) to my father. I will repent saying I have sinned against heaven (Psa. 51:4) and against you (Jam. 5:16).
• Many others have said “I have sinned” – some sincerely like David (2 Sam. 12:13; 24:10) and the Psalmist (Psa. 41:4); some insincerely like Pharaoh (Ex. 9:27) and Judas (Matt. 27:4).
• He displayed great humility (Prov. 18:12) unlike others who were less sincere (1 Cor. 7:10 – Esau, Pharaoh, Balaam, Judas). He was willing to start at the bottom as a servant (Rom. 1:1) and rebuild trust with his father.
• The son had said give me (12) but now he said make me (19).