THE PARABLES OF THE JOY OF FINDING
PART III
Luke 15:20-32

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).
- REPENTANCE (17-19).
- REJOICING (20-24).

- While he was a long way off, the father showed unconditional love by coming near as his son came near to him (Jam. 4:8). In fact the father ran to his son showing his great desire to reconcile.
- The distant country showed him misery but his father showed him mercy that made him alive (Eph. 2:1-5; 8-9).
- The father gave him a robe and ring (Gen. 41:42; Isa. 61:10) – son not slave.
- Instead of a funeral, the son got a feast (Psa. 103:10-13).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE PRODIGAL SON</th>
<th>JESUS CHRIST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HE WAS LOST (24)</td>
<td>“I AM THE WAY”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE WAS IGNORANT (17)</td>
<td>“I AM THE TRUTH”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE WAS DEAD (24)</td>
<td>“I AM THE LIFE”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESPONDING (25-32).

- The older son is introduced to reveal the attitude of the Pharisees. Like the older brother, they were not happy that the father welcomes repentant sinners (2).
- Their outward actions may have been blameless, but their inward attitudes were not (Matt. 23:27-28).
- The younger brother did not deserve a party but a funeral (Deut. 21:18-21). That is the definition of grace – the undeserved favor of God.
- The anger of the older brother reveals people who are out of fellowship with God. It prohibits you from being in fellowship with other believers and the church (1 John 4:19-21).
- The older brother should have been forgiving (Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:32).
- The father got the last word. He told his oldest son that all he had was available to him but he had not asked. The father loved both his sons but only one had repented (Matt. 4:17).