

# THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON LUKE 15:11-32

This parable has traditionally been called “The Parable of the Prodigal Son” but it is probably better described as “The Parable of the Prodigal **FATHER** or the parable of the **TWO LOST SONS**.”

The word prodigal means reckless or extravagant. One son is the **HEDONISTIC YOUNGER BROTHER** and the other is the **MORALISTIC OLDER BROTHER**.

**The younger brother:** He basically tells his father, “I wish you were dead” and leaves with his inheritance. He doesn’t love the father, just what he can get out of his father. He spends everything he has in what the Bible calls “riotous living.”

Eventually the son “comes to himself.” He realizes that servants in his father’s household have it better than him. He decides to go home. On the way he writes a speech to his father about how he is no longer worthy to be called a son but wants to be a servant. **What would you say if this was your son?**

**What does the father do?** He runs to him. He doesn’t let him finish his speech. He covers his filth with **his best robe**. He **puts a ring on his finger**. He gives him **sandals to wear on his feet**. Instead of shame, he gives him honor. Instead of throwing him in prison, he throws a party.

Salvation in Christ is a robe of **identity**.

Salvation in Christ is a ring of **value**.

Salvation in Christ is sandals of **purpose**.

**The older brother:** There is another son in the text. There is not just one lost son in this passage. One is just more subtle than the other. No one misses the fact that the younger brother is lost but few catch the fact that the **OLDER** brother is lost as well.

And this is where some of us are having lived and/or grown up in the religious south. The older brother has been with the father the whole time but he is just as **LOST** as the younger brother. He doesn't love the father either. He just wants the father for his stuff as well. He used morality to get what he wanted.

The younger brother is **UNRIGHTEOUS** while the older brother is **SELF- RIGHTEOUS .**

It can be more **DANGEROUS** in the end to be the **OLDER** brother.

The **YOUNGER** brother enters the party while the **OLDER** brother never does. He never enters the joy of the father.

**Have we believed the gospel?**

Do we believe that **Christianity is primarily about Jesus & what he has done** & not about us & what we have to do?

**What does it mean to have eternal life and know God?**

**I John 5: 12-14 says, Whoever has the Son has life;** whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know that you have eternal life.** And **this is the confidence that we have before Him:** If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

# WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY?

## 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now **I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel** I preached to you, which **you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For **I delivered to you as of first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

**Which you received:** The gospel covers our past

**In which you stand:** It is our present confession

**By which you are being saved:** It is our future hope

We want to take a moment right here to stop and extend an invitation for you to come into a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that not everyone who walks in these doors has come into a relationship with Jesus, and that's okay. Today, God wants to change the entire trajectory of your life by the decision that you make over the next few minutes. You can know forgiveness, peace, and purpose by accepting this free gift from God. We want to ask everyone in attendance to please bow your head.

## A Time of Prayer

**Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** 10 One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation."

Those of you who placed your faith in Christ today to be your Savior, we will ask you to let us know of your decision so that we can celebrate with you.

**We want you to share your Christian testimony.** That you have received and believe the gospel, that you are currently trusting in Jesus, and that your hope is in Him alone.

### **Three Parts to a Christian Testimony from 1 Corinthians 15:**

**“I receive the gospel”** Tell us about when you received the gospel.

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**“I stand in the gospel”** Affirm the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and your dependence upon Jesus to save you and commitment to Him.

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**“I am being saved by the gospel”** Share how that your future hope is in the finished work of Jesus and your confidence is in Him.

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# HOW TO SHARE JESUS WITHOUT AN ARGUMENT

What is the best way to avoid an argument?  
Answer “By asking questions”

The Five Questions

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
2. To you who is Jesus?
3. Do you think there is a heaven and a hell?
4. If you died right now, where would you go?
5. If what you believe were not true, would you want to know it?

This step provides a series of Bible verses to ask the lost person to read out loud.

In (Luke 24:45) it says “Then He (Jesus) opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.”

## God uses Scripture to change people’s lives

1. Romans 3:23 – The issue of sin
2. Romans 6:23 – The penalty of sin
3. John 3:3 – how to enter a relationship with Christ
4. John 14:6 – The narrowness of the gospel
5. Romans 10:9-11 – Anyone can be saved
6. 2nd Cor 5:15 – We must turn from and turn to
7. Revelation 3:20 – A choice to accept or reject

(The issue of Sin) – Romans 3:23 (ESV) “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Have the person read the verse and ask, "What does that verse say?"

(The penalty of sin) – Romans 6:23 (ESV) “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Have the person read the verse and ask, "What does that verse say?"

If a person says “I don’t know what it means” Just say read it again!

(How to enter a relationship with Christ) John 3:3 (ESV) Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Don’t be to hasty explaining the Scripture Verse.

Have the person read the verse and ask, "What does that verse say?"

The purpose is to cause the person to think and for the Holy Spirit to continue convicting him of his spiritual emptiness.

(The narrowness of the Gospel) John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Have the person read the verse and ask, "What does that verse say?"

(Anyone can be saved) Romans 10:9-11 (ESV) because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

Have the person read the verse and ask, "What does that verse say?"

(We must turn from/turn to) 2 Corinthians 5:15 (ESV) and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Have the person read the verse and ask, "What does that verse say?"

(A choice to accept or reject) – Revelation 3:20 (ESV) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Have the person read the verse and ask, "What does that verse say?"

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and if the person is receptive to the gospel you should be able to tell by their answers.

The Five Closing Questions!

1. Are you a sinner?
2. Do you want forgiveness for your sins?
3. Do you believe Jesus died on the cross for you and rose again?
4. Are you willing to surrender your life to Christ?
5. Are you ready to invite Jesus into your life and and put your faith in Jesus as Lord?

(This outline is adapted from Bill Fay's Share Jesus without Fear Material)