

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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PONDERING THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Lk. 15:11-32 records “The Parable of the Prodigal Son.” Take a moment to read a portion of that text (**vs. 11-24**). It reads:

“And he said, a certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, how many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.”

This short parable is filled with many spiritual lessons. Some of which are as follows:

- A “give me” attitude gets a person in big trouble (**vs. 12**).
- There is a great distance between sinners and God (**vs. 13; cf. Isa. 59:1-2**).
- Riotous living causes nothing but harm to an individual (**vs. 13-14**).
- Sin is not fun forever (**vs. 14; cf. Heb. 11:25**).
- The man who does not plan beyond the “here and now” comes to ruin (**vs. 13-14; cf. Matt. 25:1-13**).
- Living in sin will eventually cause folks to do things they never thought they would do (**vs. 15**).
- It is better to place confidence in God rather than to trust in man (**vs. 16; cf. Ps 118:8**).
- If man wants to please the Father in heaven he must “come to his senses” (**vs. 17**).
- There are ample provisions in the Father’s house (**vs. 17; cf. 1 Tim. 3:15**).
- Reconciliation with God takes action on behalf of man (**vs. 18; cf. Acts 2:40**).
- Sin makes one unworthy (**vs. 19**).
- God is willing to forgive our transgressions if we will “come home” (**vs. 20; cf. Eph. 2:12-13**).
- God is waiting for us to return to Him (**vs. 20; cf. 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9**).
- God is compassionate (**vs. 20; cf. Js. 5:11**).
- God is elated when His wayward children return (**vs. 20, 23; cf. 15:10**).
- We have nothing to offer God that we should count ourselves worthy of salvation (**vs. 21; cf. Rom. 5:6-8**).
- When we obey God, He showers us with blessings (**vs. 22; cf. Eph. 1:3**).
- Sin murders our spiritual life (**vs. 24; cf. Rom. 6:23**).
- The Calvinistic doctrine known as “Once Saved-Always Saved” is not true (**vs. 24**).