

“A DAD
YOU
CAN
COME
HOME
TO”



“A Dad You Can Come Home To”

Luke 15:11-32

While not everyone has had a great dad, every follower of Jesus Christ has a perfect Father. Let's look at the most familiar and beloved of all Christ's parables this Father's Day, and consider five characteristics displayed by the prodigal son's father.

Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

Best-known, best-loved parable

Charles Dickens and Ralph Waldo Emerson
both called it the best short story ever written

Not about the son as much as the gracious nature
of the father

Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

God is willing to forgive repentant sinners

Third in a series of parables with that message

Rename: Parable of the Merciful Father

I. Context

Three parables that teach the same lesson:
God is willing to restore, forgive, and find
repentant sinners

I. Context

Lost sheep: 100 sheep, 1 lost,
1% loss (see Luke 15:4-7)

Lost coin: 10 coins, 1 lost,
10% loss (see Luke 15:8-10)

Prodigal son: 2 sons, 1 lost, 50% loss

1. He Was Flexible

Prodigal – wasteful, profligate, self-centered, spend-thrift; pour out all resources for a self-indulgent lifestyle

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

Son an example of a wasted life

Father honors the choice of the son: divided his livelihood

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

Teenage rebellion

"When a boy turns 13, seal him in a *barrel* and feed him through a *knot hole*. When he turns 16, plug up the hole."—Mark Twain

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

"Watching your daughter being collected by her date feels like handing over a million dollar Stradivarius to a gorilla," Jim Bishop

Why do teens go with the wrong crowd? That crowd accepts them

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

2. He was Reliable

He was diligent in business and wealthy

This is the story of a disrespectful son and a successful father

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

"No one had anything but praise for my father who, despite his slender resources, was ready to provide his son with all that was needed to enable him to travel so far for the purpose of study. Many of our townspeople, far richer than my father, went to no such trouble for their children's sake." —Augustine

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

3. He was Approachable

Lessons we want our children to know about
God

Bold to enter the throne of God to receive grace

Ask Seek Knock

God in heaven can be approached at any time

Teach God's approachability by modeling it
Child's first impression of God is typically what
he sees in his father

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

4. He was Gentle

Father felt compassion

In the Greek, compassion here refers to 'the inward parts,' especially the nobler entrails – the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys.

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

These gradually came to denote the seat of the affections

Moved with deepest emotion in his gut

No hesitation, castigation, or inquisition

There was a celebration

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

He saw the son from far off

He ran to him

He heartily covered him with many kisses

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

He said nothing; he listened

You may not approve of what your child is doing

In a sample of 500 college drop-outs, a sense of isolation, especially from the father, was reported

B. Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

5. He was Impartial

His older son complained about the mercy the father showed

He loved them both equally

He didn't play favorites

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

He went down the road to meet with one son

He went out of the house to plead with the other

He never makes comparisons

He is the kind of dad the world needs more of

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

"If he's wealthy and prominent and you stand in awe of him, call him 'Father.' If he sits in his shirt sleeves and suspenders at a ball game and picnic, call him 'Pop.'

B.Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

' If he wheels the baby carriage and carries bundles meekly, call him 'Papa' (with the accent on the first syllable). If he belongs to a literary circle and writes cultured papers, call him 'Papa' (with the accent on the last syllable).

B. Five Characteristics of the Father of the Prodigal Son

If however, he makes a pal of you when you're good, and is too wise to let you pull the wool over his loving eyes when you are not; if, moreover, you're quite sure no other fellow you know has quite so fine a father, you may call him 'Dad'. — William Franklin