

# PRODIGAL

## LESSON ONE

### Rev. Dr. Kevin D. Sturdivant, Teacher

Luke 15 is home to one of Jesus' most famous parables. Jesus was a Master story-teller and often used parables. To understand what Jesus is saying in Luke 15, we must know \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus told the story in the first place. Examine: Luke 15:1 & 2. These parables are told because Jesus wants them to check their self-righteous, self-serving, holier-than-thou attitudes. \_\_\_\_\_

In this parable, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ context and there is a \_\_\_\_\_ context. In this study we will look at both. Let's define what we mean by the word "prodigal." Prodigal means \_\_\_\_\_.

As we study Luke 15, we will find the word applies to \_\_\_\_\_ in the story.

#### LUKE 15:11 & 12

**<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.**

Let's first examine the \_\_\_\_\_. In the parable, the younger son makes the request while the father is still alive.

1. This was highly unusual. There was no cultural precedent for this request.
2. This was highly \_\_\_\_\_. The boy is saying he wished his father were dead.

There would have been repercussions of the boy's request.

1. The father would have the right \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The father \_\_\_\_\_ would have been expected to drive the boy out of the house with "verbal and physical blows."

Look at how the father responds. The father does not respond in the traditional manner. In the face of unthinkable disrespect, the father demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_. People listening to this story would have been amazed at the father's response. The father loves the son enough to extend his son the costly grace of the son's right to choose. God gives us the right to choose, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. "The greater the love, the greater the pain, when that love is not accepted." People ask why would a loving God not just take everyone to heaven. Examine: Rev. 3:20; John 3:16; Deut. 30:15 & 16; Joshua 24:15 \_\_\_\_\_