

TRANSCRIPT

August 20th 2026 "The Love Of The Father For The Prodigal"

Chapter Fifteen. It's good for finding your Bibles, Luke Chapter Fifteen and Verse Eleven. And I'm just excited. Amen. I want to thank all those that are watching by internet and we're praying that god would richly bless you that god would speak to you through his word and one of the things that I know is god always uses his word to speak to every one of us in our own life. Amen. So, Luke chapter 15 Luke chapter 15, beginning in verse 11. The Bible says, 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 fall 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 the swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks of the swine, did he? And no man gave unto him. Let's pray. Father, we thank you. For your word. Father, I thank you that you use your word to speak to every one of us in our own lives. I ask you now, Lord, that you would speak to each and every one of us. Father, there's so many people who are just lost and trying to find their way. And I ask you now, Lord, that you would speak to them in Jesus' name, amen. Well, you could be seated at this time. And here we have a story that Jesus spoke about, and it's of a father who had two sons.

And here we see the Lord. Jesus uses this story to illustrate the graciousness and love of the Father more than the sinfulness of the prodigal son. And I know a lot of you have read about the prodigal son. And the reason why Jesus began to speak of this, we can find in Luke chapter 15 in the beginning, in verse 1 and 2. And the story was told by Jesus in response to the attitude of the Pharisees and Sadducees who were murmuring because Jesus was sitting and fellowshiping with sinners. Amen. And turn with me again to.

Luke chapter 15, verse 1. And here's the reason why Jesus began to preach this message. In Luke chapter 15, verse 1, it says, then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them. Now think of that. Jesus is sitting there and he could understand and he knew the thoughts of these Pharisees and scribes. And most of you that might not know, a Pharisee was one of those religious rulers in the nation of Israel. And the scribe also would document and write down the scriptures. So they were very knowledgeable in the Old Testament. And they would, what you would call today, those who would be walking around in their self righteousness, thinking that they're better than each and everyone else. And so many times you find that among people that are religious, amen.

But I'm here to tell you that's not the heart of God. When Jesus came, he came for what? The heart and soul of the lost. And Jesus would always reach out to the lost. And we find that some of you are parents of prodigals, amen? And have seen children just walk away from their faith, raised up in the church. And that's the story here that Jesus is going to be talking about and I titled this message the love of the father for the prodigal because we don't realize in the the religious did not realize the heart of God is for all those sinners who are following their own path.

Amen So the story was told by Jesus in response to the attitude of the Pharisees and scribes because they had and scribes, because he's been having company with these sinners. So, the first thing I want to point out is the critical religious crowd. We see that in verse 1 and 2. Especially in verse 2, it says, and the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, 'This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them' You know how many times you see people that are critical of others? They walk around in their selfishness righteousness, thinking that they're better than everybody else. And that's not what church is supposed to be. Amen. Church is supposed to be a place where you come struggling. Being in the world and you come struggling, this should be a place where it's what I like to call the care station. Where you come here and you find people that would truly love you because they love Jesus.

Amen. And we know. The Lord sought sinners because his mission was to save sinners. Amen, and we find that in Luke chapter 19. Look what it says in verse 10 Luke chapter 19 verse 10 and here this is Jesus and Jesus says for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. And today I see, as I go about my daily life, I see a lot of people struggling, a lot of people hurting, a lot of people struggling with sin in their lives. Amen? And it's not a place for us to condemn. And that's why Jesus spoke about this the love of the Father towards the prodigal. So we see that the critical religious crowd were upset with Jesus. Because he was trying to reach. The lost around him. The second point is the rebellious son. Now turn back to Luke chapter 15. And here we see the story. And this son, and I spoke about it a little, the son who turns to his father and he seeks the inheritance from his father. And in Luke chapter... 15, verse 13, look what it says. I'm sorry, verse 11.

It says, 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 fall 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. So here we see the younger son requested a portion of his inheritance from his father. And what did he do? He went into a far country and he squandered all that the father gave him. Now, back then, the inheritance would be what? Land and cattle and things like that. As today, you know, you find. It in stocks and bonds. And listen, if you want to know anything, buy some silver, amen? Silver's going up. But, anyways, think of that. Here's this younger boy. He's got an older brother, but he comes to his father and he says, Dad, I want my inheritance now. I want it now. And what he was saying is Give me my inheritance before you die. I want it now. And this is what the prodigal son was really saying.

What he was saying is, he wanted the right to live his own life. And do you see that today? How many people want to live their own life? You see young people who want to go out into the world. And want

to take off and there's a loving family that is watching and making the wrong moves. And here we see that this young man, he was making the wrong moves. He wanted to go and seek the things of the world. I'm here to tell you that the world is a dangerous place to be, amen? There's so much temptation out there. My heart breaks with what's going on today with all the drugs, all the alcohol, all the sex, all the violence that's going on today. And when you look at people, when they're looking at their future, and I believe here we find this prodigal son, he wanted to live his life on his terms.

Amen. I went down that road. I was, I went to college. I went to the school of hard knocks. Amen. How many will raise your hand and agree with me? How many have gone down that road? Did not listen to their parents, ran off doing their own thing. I had a loving mother and I was a rebellious son when I was young, living in the projects. I chased a lot of sin. I can't understand where this Prodigal son was at. Mark chapter 8, verse 36, the Bible says, for what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

You know, today people are seeking out things of the world, not knowing that those are physical things, those are temporary things. The eternal thing is your soul, amen? Luke chapter 15, verse 14 says, and when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land, and he began to want. What was happening? He had all that money, all his inheritance, and he squandered it with riotous living. And all of a sudden, he finds himself with no place to go, no money, in a distant land. Here's this Jewish young man far from his family, and now he's pretty much on the edge of living a homeless life.

And he finds a gentleman that's going to give him a job. Amen. And you know, when you look at the Father, the Father is when Jesus began to teach this, the Father would be God the Father, and how God is. A gentleman, and He will not force His will upon you but allow you to live your life the way you want, amen. And that's exactly what this father of this prodigal son did. He didn't say no, he didn't fight with him. The man was at an age he wanted to do his own thing, and as much as it hurt the father, he says, We'll go. And today it's the same thing. God's a gentleman. He's not going to force you to live for Him. Even though that's the greatest thing you can do, give your life to Jesus and follow Him so He can direct thy paths.

Turn with me again to Luke chapter 15. Look what it says in verse 14. Says, 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 the fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husk that the swine did eat, and no man gave unto him. What was he saying? He was saying that here he is, a Jewish man. And if you understand the Old Testament, a Jew would not be any part of pork. You know that today. How many know that? Yeah. Here's this Jewish boy, this prodigal son, who has now taken off. And now he finds himself in a bad and what is he gonna do? He finds a job and the the boss is saying hey take care of my swine feed my swine Can you imagine? That? And he is so desperate that not only is he feeding the swine, he's eating what the swine eat. And if you don't know what a swine is, it's a pig.

Amen. But think of that how low can you go? And today I find so many people who have been chasing after the world and find all that the world has for them, all the lights and the glitter and the fun and the sin and the lust. After a while, it doesn't feed the heart, it doesn't feed the soul. They still leave with an emptiness. How many know what I'm talking about? You could be at a big party, you could be having fun, you could put a smile on your face thinking everything's great. And then in the midst of it all, feel the emptiness in your heart. Something's missing. And I believe that's exactly where this gentleman was. He did not realize that everything he had home was everything he needed. And do you realize it often takes great sorrow and tragedy to cause people to look to the only one who can help them the only one that can fill that void In their life, which is God.

Amen. It's ironic that everything that the prodigal son sought after, he already had. We find that when we read a little further, when he's contemplating about where he was at his father's home. And let me just say this. It doesn't. Hey this It doesn't matter how far you've gone It doesn't matter how much sin you've done God has seen it all Do you realize that God's has seen everything that you do and he knows exactly where you're at and He loves you most people don't understand that that God loves you even when you're a sinner. And never mind what you've done. Is is you know? Sometimes it's time to come home. You know, a lot of people that go to church and and even though they come to church, they're still far from God. And God sees you. God knows when you when your prayer life is cold.

God knows. When you're living in sin, Amen. But God is waiting for you to come to Him. I like what it says in Isaiah chapter 55, verse 7. Isaiah 55, verse 7. The Bible says, Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him. And to our God he will abundantly pardon. Do you realize that? Abundantly potted. You realize that? How many times people are filled with guilt and with just filled with the sin in their life and they don't realize that God loves them? And how many times you have people that their lifestyle outside of church is so bad and somebody would invite them to church and they said, Well, I'm not going to go to church. You have people that are critical, you have people that are judgmental.

You have, if I, how many times I've heard this, if I go into your church, the ceiling's gonna fall down on me. How many know what I'm talking about? Well, I, it's funny because I'm a joker, if you know me, I have a hot hat downstairs in the kitchen for people that say that. I'll bring it upstairs and I'll say, hey, here, Why don't you wear this amen, but we don't realize how much God loves you. Do you realize how much God loves you, a sinner? Do you realize that that's the whole meaning of the cross? For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever shall believe in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. God loves the sinner. God is seeking the sinner. And that's what this story is about. The love of the Father towards the prodigal son. And if you feel like you're a prodigal son, this story is for you. And if you are seeking to find something in your life, something to get close to the God, this is for you. Because God, Wants you to turn and come back to him. You know Repentance is basically a change of mind with reference to God, to self, and to others in sin.

You know, you be living a lifestyle going this way, like the world, and thinking everything's great, and then all of a sudden you come to a point, like this prodigal son, and you say, This is not for me. I can't

control this. I can't handle this. And repentance is when you Turn back. And here he is, this prodigal son. He comes to himself and he begins to think about home, about the love he had, the security he had. And that's what I want to speak on the compassionate father. Look again in Luke chapter 15. Look what it says in verse 20. Luke chapter 15, verse 20. The prodigal son, it says, and he rose 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. Let me just Say this. God will not chase you down while you're running in the opposite direction. But once you turn back to Him in repentance, He will receive you with loving open arms. So many times that people are filled with guilt, with shame, that they don't want to get up.

They don't want to turn to the Father. When all the all that the father wants is you He wants a relationship with you. Can you imagine this the prodigal son's father? You hear what he says, but when he was yet a great way off his father saw him and Had compassion and ran and what does it say and fell on his neck and kissed him? There was no judgment there. Amen. And that's what the Father God wants. One thing you'll never hear your Heavenly Father say if you walk away from me, you can never come back. He will not say that. Amen. He's waiting for you. He's a loving God. I like what it says in 2 Peter 3, verse 9. The Bible says, The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. That word, long suffering, you know what that word means? Suffering long with somebody. How

How many times God is looking at you running and chasing after sin and chasing after the world, and his heart is breaking because Satan has deceived you, thinking that the things of the world, the lust out in the world, is what's going to satisfy you when all it's going to do is bring you to a hell, separated for eternity. That's not what God wants. You realize that God created every one of us with our own will, a will to choose. The father never left his house to go after the son. He waited until the son came to his senses.

Think of that. Are you in that place right now? Are you tired of your sin? Are you tired of eating swine food? Because that's what the world's gonna give you Luke chapter 15 verse 17 look what it says and when he came to himself He said how many hired servants of my father's have bread enough to and to spare and I perish with hunger See starting to realize Hey, do you know if Realize. And you know, it comes to a point that there are some people have chased after sin in the world and have rejected the counsel of their loving parents. And they come to themselves. And they look at their lives and they look at the broken lives that they've created because of chasing after the things of the world. And they come realize that the ones who Who loved them were the ones who were broken hearts praying for them. But most of all, the God who created you and I, he wants you and I to have a relationship with him. It says in Jeremiah chapter 29, this was our reading for today, in Jeremiah 29, verse 11, the Bible says, for I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith.

The Lord. Thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end. And what's that expected end? A place in heaven with Him. You realize that? And look what it says in verse 12, then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you, and ye shall seek Me and find Me" with and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart. This is exactly where this prodigal son was. He was feeding swine and eating the food. That the swine would eat, and he came to himself, the Bible says. And he realized, I have to go back home. I got to go back to the Father's house. And that's what the Lord says. He has only thoughts of peace and not of evil. And in the far country, the prodigal son learned the meaning of misery. Amen. But back home.

He discovered the meaning of mercy. They hear his father who knew that he went and squandered everything and made those wrong decisions. His father didn't care about that. All his father wanted was his lost son to come back to him. And that's exactly what God's looking for for us to come back to him. Look again in Luke chapter 15. Look at what it says in verse 21. Luke chapter 15, Louis says in verse 21, now mind you, Jesus is, he brings this whole story up because of the thoughts and the murmuring of the hearts of those religious Pharisees and scribes. All because he had company with sinners and publicans. And they were murmuring in their sleep. Republicans and they were murmuring in their hearts. They were like, look at these people. You know, why do you think a lot of people don't come to a church? There's a whole generation that will not come to church because they think when they come to church, they're going to be judged. Judged for their tattoos, judged for what they're doing. When really church is supposed to be a place where it's a care station where we love on people the way the Lord loves on them. And if you know the love and the Compassion in the heart of the Father God, you would also be the same way towards a sinner. Amen. And look. Look in Luke chapter 15.

Verse 21. It says, and the Son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and I am no more worthy to be called thy son. Thank you. But the father said unto his servants, Bring forth the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand. And the shoes on his feet. And let me just pause right here. Do you realize here's the father, probably in the fields, working the fields, and he looks afar off and he sees his son over the horizon coming to him. And it's probably been years since he's seen his son.

And it's hot. The love he has for his son is just aching. He sees his son coming back home. What does he do? He begins to run towards his son. And I think. And this is just the way I think. Here's the son. He's probably never had a shower or a bath in a month. He's been rolling around with the swine. You know how much swine smells? How many have been to a pig farm? Yeah. And here's the son coming, walking, coming back to the father with a humbled heart, knowing that he sinned against his God. But he also doesn't even feel like he's even his father's son anymore for what he's done. But yet the father runs to him. The father grabs him and says, and what does it say? And kissed on his neck. And I think all the time, I think of. Because I used to live next to a pig farm in Mattapoise. And I remember every time my Rottweiler would come home after being at that pig farm, we would keep him away from the house. We would have to rinse him off. Remember the smell? But yet, here's the father running to his son. He didn't care. Like he smelt like the world.

He didn't care like he smelt like swine. All he wanted was his son. Do you realize that God's not looking at your sin? He's looking at your heart, coming back to him. Amen. And that Jesus is speaking this to those, the religious, the people that had their nose in the air looking down on people. And what does he say in verse 24? It says. This is my son, for this my son was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry. They began to be Merry. They were all excited to see the son come home. Do you know that heaven celebrates when one sinner comes back home to the Father? You realize that. But we have this mindset that because we're filled with sin.

We can't even come to the Father. I'm here to tell you the Father is waiting for you to come back to Him. Amen. And what's he say? He says in verse 22: he says, Bring forth the best robe and put it on him. You know, there was probably a robe. Remember Joseph in the Bible? He had that multicolor robe. The father says, Hey. Come on. He must have had money. He says, Come on, put the best clothes on him. Do you realize that? When you come to the Father through Jesus Christ, that Jesus, that you will be restored with the righteousness of Christ? That's what the Bible says. And then what does he say? He says, Come on. Give me the ring to put the ring back on his face. Do you know what a ring was? Back in those days, if you had a ring, a lot of times, whatever documents you had. You would take the ring and you put a little bit of wax on and you would put that ring on. That was your authority. Amen? The father had the authority and gave the authority back to the son. He wasn't a servant, he was now his son again. And the ring was restored to him back to his position as son. In Galatians, if you'd like.

Turn to Galatians. I'm almost done. Look what it says in Galatians chapter 4. What it says in verse 6 and because ye are sons of God, God had sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore Thou art no more a servant, but a son. And if a son. Then an heir of God through Christ. What is he talking about? He's talking about when you come to Jesus, when you recognize who Jesus is and what the Father sent the Son to the cross to die for your sin. And when you come with all your sin, and you come to Jesus, and say, Lord Jesus, forgive me a sinner."

You know what he'll do? He'll forgive you right then and there. You don't have to have no special prayer. He just wants you to come with open heart and a repentant heart saying, Lord Jesus, forgive me a sinner. And you know what he'll do? He'll pour his peace and his love right into your heart and he'll change you and give you eternal life. I know because that's what happened to me and it happened to a lot of you, but there might be some out there who's never trusted Christ, who's never recognized, who only feels like the prodigal son seeking and searching a relationship with the Father again. And he's waiting for you with a repentant heart to come back to him. Never mind what you've done. Today's the day, it's time to come back home. To say, forgive me, Lord. I have sinned. You know what I've done, and I come seeking forgiveness and mercy. I'm here to tell you if you come seeking that from the Lord, He will forgive you. Never mind what you've done, He just wants you. And if you're seeking, or maybe you're here and you've been saved for quite a few years.

And all of a sudden you're in a. State of backsliding when you're here, but your heart's not here. When you're caught up in sin out in the world or whatever, listen, God does not want to judge you, He wants

to forgive you and bring you back. And oh, the forgiveness He gives you. So, just in conclusion, How to begin to return to God is so simple. It's so easy. If you're here and you're seeking to be forgiven, it's so easy. First of all, you have to realize, realize where you're at, realize that your life is like that prodigal son is eating swine food.

And when you recognize, when you come to yourself, the Bible says the prodigal son did. He came to himself and when you realize that you're a sinner that all you need to do God is not far from you. All you need to do is turn to Him and start to seek after Him, and He will meet you on that road of your repentance. And He'll forgive you. So it's all a matter of realizing you're a sinner and recognizing that Jesus went to the cross for your sin. Thank you. Sin. 2000 years ago, Jesus went to that cross, the sinless for the sinner. He died for our sin. And on that cross, when he said, Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do, and then he gave up the ghost, he died. And three days later, he rose again to prove who he was and to Justify anyone who would come to him. And today I'm seeing a whole generation of people coming to him. There's revival happening. Amen. And then it's return. Realize, repent, and return. That's exactly what the prodigal son did. And you know what he found? He found that his loving father, was this Loving father was there with open arms.

And if you're here today and you're seeking forgiveness from the father, all you need to do is look towards the son. He sent the son to die in your place, to die for your sin. And it's not high. God wants your heart to turn back to him and to say a simple prayer Lord Jesus, forgive me, a sinner. Come into my life and Save me. Change me. Fill me with your love and your forgiveness. And he will do that. Why don't we stand? So many times we feel the shame, the shame of our sin, the guilt of our sin.

You know Satan the word Satan is that he's the accuser. Amen He's gonna tempt you after for you to go and chase after that sin and then once you get caught in that sin, then he's gonna turn around and he's gonna accuse you look at what you've done and He brings that guilt and that shame upon you. But I'm here to tell you. Christ wants to forgive you. Amen. With every head bowed and every eye closed, maybe God spoke to you. Maybe you're here today and this is exactly what you needed to hear. Not that God is just. You, but God loves you and wants you to run into His arms. And He's willing to forgive you. This is not about religion. The religion was those Pharisees that thought that they were greater and better than the publicans and the sinners and did not know the Father's love that He would send Jesus to seek and to save that which was lost.

If you're here now and you every head bowed and every eye closed, if God spoke to you, can I see your hand? Just raise your hand so I can recognize that God spoke to you. Say, pastor, God was speaking to me. I see your hand. Thank you. I see your hand. God loves you. He wants a relationship with you. He doesn't want religion. He wants a relationship with you. All he's waiting for you is to run into his arms and say, Father, forgive me, a sinner. Save me from my sin. You don't have to raise your hand. You don't have to come forward. All you have to do is turn your heart to Jesus and say, Lord Jesus, forgive me. Father, we thank you. That you're a loving God, that all you want for us is peace and to bring us to an expected end, which is heaven.

And I ask you now, Lord, that there might be one here, as I saw those hands go up, there might be one here who's seeking, there might be one here who's hurting, who's all filled with guilt and don't realize how much you love them. I, Father, I just ask you, Lord, that you would speak through your words to their heart and save them from the penalty of their sin. May they turn and run into your arms of love and may you fill them with peace and love and joy, but most of all, forgiveness. And this I pray in Jesus' name amen.