

# MESSAGE

Occasion : Morning Worship  
Date : August 15, 2010 / November 27, 2016

TITLE : PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE STORY OF THE PRODIGAL  
Text/s :

Luke 15:11-32

- 11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:
- 12 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.
- 13 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.
- 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.
- 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.
- 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.
- 17 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!
- 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,
- 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.
- 20 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.
- 21 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.
- 22 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:
- 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:
- 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.
- 25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.
- 26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.
- 27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.
- 28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.
- 29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:
- 30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.
- 31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.
- 32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Bible Reading :

Mark 10:28-31

- 28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.
- 29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,
- 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.
- 31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

Song/s : Wasted Years  
Only One Life So Soon It Will Pass  
Marvelous Grace

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## INTRODUCTION

A parable is a figure, a similitude, a story illustrating a moral or religious truth. It may have different applications in our lives like this story.

Many preaching are drawn from this story and they focus on the characters in it: the Prodigal Son, the Father, the Envious Brother. But let us look yet on a very different angle - that of what the father had given the son and how the son uses it.

### A) What we have all come from God

Luke 15:12

12 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.

- 1) What do we have from God?
  - Our lives
  - Our time
  - Our energy strength
  - Skills and abilities
  - Our material possessions
  - All our resources

- 2) What do we have that God has not given to us?

1 Cor 4:7

7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

1 Chr 29:10-16

10 Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

15 For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.

16 O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.

John 3:27

27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

### B) What we have, God leaves to us to use and spend wisely

Luke 15:13

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.

Luke 19:13

13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

How you spend what you have, you have choice on how you spend. We are not a bunch of robots. God gives and he leaves you a choice. But He does not leave you to your choice without a warning.

Prov 23:19-24

19 Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

Eccl 11:9

9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

Rom 13:13-14

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

### **C) What we have may easily be spent and wasted**

Luke 15:14

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

It does not take long for lives, time, energy and possessions to be wasted. We see this all around. He spent his all. His condition was complicated and made worst by a mighty famine in the land. When we come to ourselves, we realize that what the world offers is emptiness. It cannot offer that which would be gain for your soul. To add affliction, no man gave unto him. We think the world has much to give? The world only takes away. The truth is, "What we have, the world wants to take away."

### **D) What we have, the world wants to take away**

Luke 15:15-16

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

We become so overwhelmed by investments, we think of high returns. only to lose even the very principal. Young people become so engrossed with drugs (ecstasy) thinking that they give happiness, only to lose their mind and future.

I Jn 2:17

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

### **E) What we have wasted and lost, we only come to terms when they are gone, then we "come to ourselves..."**

Luke 15:17

17 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!

### **F) How we wasted and spent what God has given is a sin, not to ourselves but to God**

Luke 15:18-19

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

**G) No matter what our sin is before God, He has greater compassion and mercy**

Luke 15:20-21

20 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.

21 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.

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt

Grace, Grace, God's grace  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within  
Grace, Grace, God's grace  
Grace that is greater than all our sin

Sin and despair like the sea waves roll  
Threaten the soul with  
Grace that greater, yes grace untold  
Point to the Refuge the Mighty Cross

**F) What we have wasted, God can restore, and even abundantly**

Luke 15:22-24

22 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:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

John 10:10

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.