

Date: **June 27, 2021**

Title: **The Joy of Jesus**

Scripture Text: **Luke 15**

In Luke 15 Jesus shares three parables in response to criticism He was getting around receiving what the religious leadership described as 'sinners' ([Luke 15:1-2](#)). The first parable describes a lost sheep, the second, a lost coin and the third a lost son. Each parable describes the priority God's people should place on others. Jesus demonstrated that priority when He received these 'sinners'. As followers of Jesus, how well do we imitate Jesus in this area? Let us learn more about Jesus' love for others and how we need to do the same as we focus on the third parable: more commonly known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

I. Separation ([Luke 15:11-13](#))

Life was good but this man's son wanted something more. Therefore, the son asked his father for his share of the estate so he could go out on his own. Are there times when we treat God the same way this son treated his father? We are in a good place as we commune with God; yet there are times when we want to go out on our own and do things our way.

- **What do you think motivated the son to want to leave his father?**
- **What would motivate a believer to venture out on their own from time to time?**
- **Why is that such a temptation?**
- **Describe a time when you ventured out on your own. What was the outcome?**

II. Conviction ([Luke 15:14-19](#))

The bottom fell out for the son. He lost all he had. His decision to go out and follow his way (instead of his father's) failed. Conviction set in. He had sinned against his father. He decided to return to his father, except not as his son, but in the capacity of a servant, because he realized his father's servants had it better than he did.

- **Why do you think the son waited so long, until all he had was squandered, before considering returning to his father?**
- **How do we do similar things when we have strayed from God? Why does it take us so long before we respond to God's conviction?**
- **Describe how God has convicted you in the past when you have strayed.**

III. Conversion ([Luke 15:20-24](#))

As the son returned home, he was greeted by his father, not with disapproval, but unconditional love. The father had compassion on him and welcomed him home.

- **How are the father's actions reflective of God's when we repent?**
- **How do the father's actions show how we should respond to one another when we feel we have been wronged?**
- **Describe reasons believers may give for not repenting when convicted of sin?**
- **How can you have a soft heart toward God's convictions?**

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If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office at [850.878.5503](tel:850.878.5503), office@morningsidetlh.org, or complete the [Prayer Request Form](#)

IV. Reaction ([Luke 15:25-32](#))

In contrast to the father openly welcoming the prodigal back; the eldest son responded with anger and contempt. He was more focused on works than love, on obtaining favor through actions rather than unconditional acceptance.

- **Compare how the father receives his lost son with how God receives those who were lost but accepts Christ.**
- **Compare how the eldest son responds to the return of his brother with how believers may respond to fellow believers. Could a similar situation happen between believers?**
- **How can believers inappropriately judge each other?**
- **What steps can you take to ensure you have the father's perspective and not the eldest brother's?**