

The Prodigal Father and the Two Sons

Key text: *Luke 15:11-32*

Our mission in life is to know the truth about God, our Father. How much do we know Him?

In our text, the biggest question is who is the real prodigal in the story? The son or the father?

Over the years the word prodigal has lost its true meaning. The word prodigal comes from the Latin word 'prodigus' which means – **extravagant, lavishly and extremely generous.**

Understanding its original meaning, we know that it is not the son but the father who expressed His extravagant and extreme generosity to his son.

As we carefully read the story, we will find that both sons did not know who their father was.

Both failed to realise their position as sons and therefore acted differently.

The **younger son** misused and abused the resources and the privilege of being a son.

He became ***unrighteous***, leaving his father and living recklessly.

The **older son** did not utilise the father's resources and the privilege of being a son, not realising that everything that his father owned was his.

The younger son *saw himself as a master* and wanted his father to serve him. ***Luke 15:12***

The older son saw *his father as a master* and he wanted to serve the father. ***Luke 15:29***

One father, two sons – two different theologies.

How did the father show his extravagant and extreme generosity to his sons?

For the younger son...

- Though undeserving, he gave his resources generously to him.
- His love for his son was unending.
- That most anticipated day came, *while the son was still a great way off, the father*

saw him and had compassion on his lost son (v20).

- Out of His pure love and extravagant, generous heart, he was restored to being a son.

How did the father respond to his older son?

- *He came to his son and pleaded with him (v28). He did not use his authority as a father, he did not lord over him but pleaded with him.*
- What is remarkable and unveiling in this story was what he said to his older son in verse 31, ***"Son, you are always with me and all that I have is yours"***.

The **father did all these** because that was the kind of father he was. He was a PRODIGAL FATHER – an ***extravagant, lavishly and extremely generous Father!***

It was his nature to be generous, to give extravagantly and lavishly.

It was his nature to love and to do otherwise will go against his nature.

1 John 4:8 – God is love.

Everything that God will say or do is within the limits and boundaries of God's pure, generous and extravagant love.

How did God, our Father, express His generosity and extravagant love to us?

1. By creating a wonderful plan in our life

God's plan in our life is far bigger and greater than ours.

1 Cor. 2:9; Ps 139:13-16; Jer. 29:11

2. By giving us everything we need

We are complete in Christ.

Eph. 1:17-19; 2 Pet. 1:3 & Col. 2:10

3. By giving us His very best – His only Son

Christ has become the propitiation for our sins. *Romans 8:32 & 1 Jn 4:9-10*

JESUS IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE.

a. Jesus knew who His Father was.

John 10:15; Luke 2:49; Luke 3:22

b. Jesus saw Him as a Father and not as a master.

Jesus followed and obeyed the Father from a position of being a son, not from a position of being a servant. ***Matt. 11:25; John 5:8***

c. *Jesus loved the Father that He followed Him even to the point of death.*

There is an ongoing love relationship and intimacy between the Father and the Son.
Read ***John 15:10***

Jesus knew the Father so well that He was able to live in total humility till death on the cross.

How is your relationship with God, the Father?

For us to be a child of God, we need to receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. Read ***John 1:11-12***

It is a decision that you and I need to make.

Our love, commitment and obedience **MUST NOT** come from a position of being a servant but from a position of understanding that we are sons and daughters of the Living God.