



1. Introduction

a. Celebration in heaven

- joy in heaven when sinner repents

= 3 parables to show the joy

* Parable of lost sheep

* Parable of lost coin

* Parable of prodigal sons

b. Focus?

- on the lost person?

- on the lost things?

- No, on the joy of the sinner who repents & returns

c. How many prodigal sons?

- one or two?

- 2 parts to parable

* the obvious prodigal

* the hidden prodigal

2. Obvious Prodigal Son - REBELLION

a. Younger son

- impatient - rebellious

- greedy

- Know it all

b. Received his entire inheritance

= got all his money too young

c. His actions

- turned into "party animal"

- wasted his entire inheritance

d. He had moved far away

- out of his father's influence

- his father did not hear about his son's behavior

3. Economic Hardship

- a. Famine
 - ~~economy~~ economy collapses
 - no shelter, no food, no money
- b. His need so great
 - as a Jew, he worked for pig farmer
 - similar to Jew in Israel working for Muslim in West Bank
- c. So hungry, willing to eat pig food

4. Repentance

- a. Thinking changes
 - "he came to himself" (came to his senses)
- b. His terrible situation exit
 - father's servants eat better
 - willing to return home
 - admit his wrong doing
 - even willing to be mere servant in his father's home
- c. He returns back home

5. His Return

- a. Father looks for his son every day
- b. Father sees him in distance
 - runs to meet him with love
- c. Father hears his prepared speech
- d. But father gives his son celebration party
- e. Father: "my son was dead & is alive again. He was lost & is found"

6. Hidden Prodigal

- a. Older son reliable & obedient
- b. He was furious with his father's actions
- c. He would have agreed with his younger brother's idea
 - younger son thought he was not worthy to be a son in status
- d. His father wanted older son to share in joy of younger brother's return