

## PARABLES—Section 3, Part 9a

Luke 15:1-24

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1. 15:1 Jesus was like a magnet to people who were outcast. They came to Jesus not because He compromised, but because He legitimately cared.
2. 15:2 Notice the contrast...Jesus understood the basic needs of people and met them; the Pharisees criticized and kept their distance (Luke 18:9-14).
3. 15:3 The three parables of Luke 15 were directed at the Pharisees, who believed in remaining separated from sinners.
4. 15:4-7 Jesus revealed a very different image of God, rejoicing over a human returning to the fold (Luke 19:10).
5. 15:10 When someone becomes part of God's Kingdom, heaven explodes in joy.
6. 15:12 In the minds of Jesus' audience, this was an outrageous request and was the pinnacle of shame. It was the equivalent of wishing your father was dead. Any son making such an outrageous request was bringing shame upon the family and the entire community.
7. 15:12 The normal, expected response of a father in this setting would be a slap across the face to the son, followed by public shame and a severed relationship.
8. 15:12 This father was willing to endure the agony of being rejected by his own child.
9. 15:13 Life in a "distant country" is rarely what we hoped.
10. 15:14 Because of the famine, the son was forced to do for a stranger what he would not do for his own father: go to work.
11. 15:14 The famine was not his fault; but God can and will work through famines and plagues to draw people to Himself.
12. 15:15 The son had disgraced himself; he was a Jewish young man feeding pigs in a Gentile land, serving a Gentile.
13. 15:16 Every time he performed his duties, he was carried further away from his God.
14. 15:17-19 Repentance begins with an accurate assessment of your condition.
15. 15:18 Sin is always against God before anyone else.
16. 15:18 Had the son stopped at merely acknowledging his sin, he would have experienced only regret (2 Corinthians 7:10), but true repentance involves the will to act.
17. 15:20 The father's advance compassion assumes a knowledge of the son's condition.

