

The Prodigal Son?? - Part 4

July 19, 2026

- Jesus wasn't on a ministry mission; He was God, incarnate (*in the flesh; express image of the invisible God*), doing what is in His heart to do for all humanity
- "Show us the Father": Have I been with you all this time and you say If you've seen me, you've seen the Father"
- You can't show someone the Father if you haven't seen Him yourself
- If you're actively engaged in relationship with the Father it affects you at the deepest level. There's something remarkably different about you. It affects the very core of your being. It alters everything about you. You carry the presence of God wherever you go! People are drawn to that presence even if they don't know what it is, and even if you don't know you're doing it!
- Your dna is changed. You're being brought back to your original identity.
- *Like Jesus, you're not on a ministry mission,you're living out the identity that was created in your heart even before you were born"* AT

Week #1

The sinners and tax collectors - Drew near to hear Him

- Realized their need **(society's outcasts; no hope for a fulfilling life)*
- Desperate to hear anything that would give them hope
- Atmosphere - 100% charged with agape
- Jesus didn't *'just'* accept them; he valued them - - And,they could feel it
- But for most of them, if not all, it was the first time in their lives they felt noticed (seen, noticed, heard, cared about)
- People can feel it when it's authentic;and when it ain't!!
- It has a bad feel to it; it's how religion feels; the gesture is right....the heart is wrong!
- What do we do if/when we find ourselves in that mode? - Heart transplant
- Again....agape 'gives' and expects nothing in return
- The world has done such a number on society today that there are millions of people struggling through life trying to find meaning, peace and significance - AND,you have what they're looking for!
- You are very *'significant'* in the plan of God - - You need to know that!

The Pharisees and scribes - Complained

- This man receives sinners and eats with them
- They saw themselves as holier than Jesus
- They had no reference for 'who' God was/is
- *"You search the scriptures...." - - "But you're not willing to come to Me"*
- Religion seduces people to do the same - the emphasis is on what you do (*Who you know*)
- The Pharisees and scribes are a perfect picture of organized religion when/where relationship with the Father is missing (*ignorant, ignored, taken for granted, back burner*)
- Active Relationship with the Father and the transformation that naturally takes place
- You think it's a widespread phenomenon, butit's not!
- Religion says: read your Bible, pray, go to church, etc
- All those things are great but if you don't get this,you're missing the point!
- I hope you know that, realize it....how blessed you are to receive this revelation
- It's the cure for mankind!

Week #2

The Younger Brother - The Prodigal Son

- Prodigal = Lavishly wasteful
- We 'can' all have tendencies of both brothers
- I can more easily relate to the younger brother
- Those who have grown up in church - easier to relate to the older brother
- But, it's easy to fall into the trap of the older brother syndrome if you land in a church focused on the outward rather than relationship with the Father
- The Great Dilemma
- The only fix for those tendencies is running to the Father
- We must have His help (it's non-negotiable) or we're stuck

Last Week:

The Older Brother

- Jesus telling the parable in 'real time' to the Pharisees
- They ARE the older brother
- Perfect picture of religion without an active relationship with the Father

- We must watch ourselves to not fall into the 'older brother' mindset
- Focus on the outward evidence while neglecting the most important thing
- *"You look good on the outside but on the inside you're full of dead men's bones"*
- *"Unless your righteousness...."* Self-righteousness; ORSRDP
- Cain - *"I'm not my brother's keeper"* - - Obviously a 'wrong' attitude
- **Romans 8:28-30** - *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."*
- Jesus comes to us as the older brother with the correct attitude
- Be the kind of older brother like Jesus
- **Galatians 6:1** - *"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."*
- Example to us to be the older brother who contends for the prodigal

The Father

The Prodigal Father

- You see the determination of a loving Father who'll leave the 99 to just come after you
- You were worth Him leaving all the healthy ones to come after you
- Pay attention to the 'onesies' in your path/circle, etc
- The religious mind would say, *"Pastor, that's your job"*
- The Kingdom mind would take responsibility
- Go after the 'one' - Listen to the Holy Spirit **(someone on your mind?)*
- This is his invitation to the Pharisees: *"All I have is yours"*
- The story ends without knowing their response - - The door is open for them (us) to have what's rightfully ours'
- In the real world 'some' might have 'heard' the truth; But,these were the people who were responsible for putting Jesus on the cross
- *Kingdom people will die for what they believe; Religious people will kill for what they believe". AT*

What will you do with the message?