
In this parable of Christian prudence, Christ is exhorting us to use the world, and the world's goods against the world (so to speak) and for God.

In John Wesley's sermon. "The Use Of Money", he makes 3 simple points:

1. Gain all you can
2. Save all you can
3. Give all you can

Matthew 13:34,35; Psalm 78:1,2 [Amplified]).

It was not uncommon for a father in Jewish history, to give an inheritance before his own death. In Genesis 25:5,6, Abraham gave Isaac and his other sons their inheritance before his own death. The uncommon thing, was for the son to ask for it. When it did happen, it was a favor, a free gift from the father. This family was wealthy; unlike other parables where the subject was poor. -- Interesting to know, though, it was the custom of that time to give the eldest son a double portion.

This younger son asked for something for which he was not even ready.

As we sometimes ask God for something that is out of the proper season of our lives; when we are not mature enough to receive it. It can damage or destroy us.

1. Famines were common in eastern lands, but in a real sense, this was the young man's own personal famine. True __ or False__?
2. According to Luke 15:15,16:
 - (a) What was the only job he could get? _____
 - (b) What was he at the point of eating? _____
 - (c) Did anyone feed him?__ If so, who? _____
3. How is he described in verse Luke 15:17? _____

Leaving home to get away from parental restraint, instead of finding freedom, he became in bondage and was destitute; and he in his sin was to

blame. - He "comes to himself" and says to himself, "I've cut myself off from the father's house, where there is abundance. I have no one to blame but myself." He now sees clearly.

4. He said, *I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have* _____. (Luke 15:18)
5. Did he return? ____ Did he repent? ____
6. What did his father do when he saw him coming? (Luke 15:20) _____
7. What position did he decide he would ask of his father? (Luke 15:19) _____
8. What do you think is meant by the father's statement in Luke 15:24? _____

The son would have never returned until he had a change of mind and heart. The father did not literally go out and search for him, for he knew the boy had a "made-up mind," but it was his love and influence which sought after his son. This is the way our Father seeks the sinner; He follows him with His providence; He attracts him with love; and He draws him by the blessed Holy Spirit.

9. What was the attitude of the elder son? (Luke 15:28) _____
10. What do you think best describes the eldest son?:
(a) Self-righteous (b) Jealous (c) Selfish
(d) "He had a right" to feel that way. (e) Legalist
He didn't refer to him as his "brother," but "*thy son*" - But his father referred to him in Luke 15:32, as "*thy brother*."

The Pharisees and scribes, represented by the elder brother, not only do not love sinners, and do nothing to restore the lost, but they try to prevent God's operation in the lives of others. They also use their influence to come against those who do. This is the major reason they opposed Jesus.

PARABLE OF THE UNJUST STEWARD (Luke 16:1-9)

It is thought, that this parable, was given on the same day of those mentioned in Chapter 15. This steward was manager of this certain rich man's estate.

He was given great liberty in dispensing his master's wealth. This gave him the opportunity to be dishonest.

1. What did the steward do when he was called into account for his dishonesty and fired from his job? (Luke 16:3,4) _____

He was too lazy to do manual labor, too ashamed to beg, so he decided to steal. -Though the rich man had been robbed, he admired this unusual display of prudence (the quality of being discreet) in managing money to make friends.

2. What do you think Jesus meant in Luke 16:8,9?