



## SERMON NOTES

August 21, 2011

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32 (NAS)

Topic: "A Testimony of God's Mercy"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 11 And He said, "A man had two sons.  
12 "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them.  
13 "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.  
14 "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished.  
15 "So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.  
16 "And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.  
17 "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!  
18 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;  
19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."  
20 "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.  
21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'  
22 "But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet;  
23 and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;  
24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.  
25 "Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.  
26 "And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be.  
27 "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.'  
28 "But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him.  
29 "But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends;  
30 but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'  
31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.  
32 'But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'"

### **I. WHO DO WE SEE IN THIS PARABLE?**

- A. Do We See Others?
- B. Do We See Ourselves?

### **II. WHAT ARE WE TO SEE CONCERNING GOD?**

- A. The Father Represents God
- B. The Father Is Watching For The Return
- C. The Father Is Ready To Forgive
  - 1. No groveling required
  - 2. No probation
  - 3. No pervading sense of how deeply he was hurt

### **III. THE ACTIONS OF THE PRODIGAL SON**

- A. Prodigal Defined
- B. He Treated His Father As Though He Were Dead
- C. He Spent His Inheritance Wastefully
- D. He Sought But Found No Gainful Employment
- E. He Repented Of This Action *Psalm 51:17*
  - 1. Aware of his sins
  - 2. Aware of how much better off he had been
  - 3. He returned to his father's house

### **IV. THE OLDER BROTHER'S ACTIONS**

- A. He Remained At Home
- B. He Was Angry And Jealous At The Mercy Shown His Brother
- C. He Is Filled With Self-Righteousness
- D. Repentance Is Absent