

THE PRODIGAL'S RETURN

Luke 15:11-32

Text: Luke 15:18, 19

Intro: a story which the Lord told, the way He wanted it told - so it could convey the truth He wanted to make known.

It is interesting from several points-of-view:

- 1) The father's - picturing esp. God's heart.
- 2) The son who went away, and became a prodigal.
- 3) The son who always was at home.

How enviable was his position!
What brought about the change? Why did the prodigal go back?

not just vv. 14-16 - although that was a part. v. 17 says "he came to himself."
How did he?

Vv. 18, 19 give the answer in 3 parts.

I. HIS COMMENT REGARDING SIN. Cf. v. 18

Sin was his problem.

He takes full responsibility for it.
He knows this has ruined his life.

How wonderful when a person can say, if he needs to as a son - "I have sinned."

But there is more than that.

He plans to say to his father - "I have sinned against heaven, and before thee."

Sin is primarily and tragically always against GOD! Cf. Psal. 51:4.

II. HIS COMMENT REGARDING HIMSELF:

"And am no more worthy to be called thy son" (v. 19a).

How the Lord delights in humility! His sense of self-worth was gone. He had disgraced his father's name, his home, his inheritance, etc.

He could only cast himself on the mercy of his father.

III. HIS COMMENT ABOUT HIS FUTURE:

"make me as one of thy hired servants."

When he left home, he said, "Give me." Now he is saying, "make me" - ΠΟΙΨΟΨ.

Cf. Gen. 18:1-3 tells the whole story of the prodigal. See vv. 5, 6.

Concl: Once a son always a son.
The amazing patience of the Father.
The work going on in the heart of the son.

The speech interrupted - and she welcome home.

We are sons, but we are also servants.

- 1) On sons - cf. 1 Jn. 3:1, "Behold..."
- 2) On servants - ΠΙΨΘΨΨ. It seems that he may have wanted to pay his father back - used in vv. 17, 19. Some versions have it in v. 21. Only here in the N.T.

But what did the father say? See
v. 24, "This, my son."

What a lesson there is in the
attitude of the father,
of the brother.
What grace!