



Mike King-Minister

BIBLE TALK

Question: Please explain the significance of the story of the Prodigal Son of Luke 15:11-32.

Answer: This story depicts God as the God of the lost, as well as a God of love. The young son insisted on leaving home, exerting his self-will. He craved freedom without restraint. In leaving home, he left his father (God). Home would not be home to a boy of alien will, so his father made no attempt to hold him.

The son journeyed to a "far country" to be as distant to restraint as possible, to live in unfettered joy. His "desire soon became apostasy of conduct." He forgot that physical freedom always has its limits (Mt. 6:27). The son could represent any of us who "demand our rights" to the abuse of others or a denial of God's rights. "God hath determined the bounds of our habitation" (Acts 17:26) and placed limits upon His people, beyond which they dare not tread (Jn. 14:6; Mt. 7:21)! In simple, God has built a fence around His people and to go beyond is considered "transgression" or "trespassing" into God's forbidden territory, the realms of sin (Heb. 2:1-3).

His apostasy of conduct turned into spendthrift folly. His judgment was impaired and "He wasted his substance." At one point in time he possessed much, the next, "he began to be in want." So it is with us when we seek for fulfillment in "all the wrong places." By abiding in the Father all spiritual needs are met (Ps. 23; Eph. 1:3), but deprivation is to be found outside of God!

In his "far away" condition, he "was sent" to feed the swine (v. 15). He had entered into servitude and his independence dissipated. His awareness of self and condition is likened unto repentance (2 Cor. 7:10). God loves and provides for us. Prodigal, it would be smart to return home so the Father can forgive!

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