

Study #1 Bible Reading: Luke 15:11-32

15:11 Jesus said: “A man had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the property.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “A few days later the younger son gathered his possessions, left home for a distant country, and there squandered his property by wild living. 14 When he had spent it all, a severe famine came over that country, and he started to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed hogs. 16 And he would have been glad to fill up on the pods the hogs were eating. But no one would give him anything.

17 “Then he came to his senses and said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have more food than they can eat, and here I’m starving to death! 18 I’ll start out and go to my father and tell him, “Father, I’ve sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I don’t deserve to be called your son anymore. Make me one of your hired men.”’”

20 “So he started out and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 ‘Father,’ the son told him, ‘I’ve sinned against heaven and against you. I don’t deserve to be called your son anymore. Make me one of your hired men.’

22 “ ‘Hurry,’ the father told his slaves, ‘bring out a robe – the best – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let’s eat and celebrate. 24 This son of mine was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’ And they started to celebrate.

25 “Now, his older son was out in the field. As he was coming in, he got near the house – he heard music and dancing! 26 Calling one of the servants, he asked what was going on.

27 “ ‘Your brother’s home,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he got him back safe and sound.’

28 “Then he became angry and wouldn’t go in. So his father came out and begged him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘All these years I’ve been working like a slave for you and have never disobeyed your order, and you never gave me even a little goat to celebrate with my friends. 30 But as soon as this son of yours came back, who devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.’

31 “ ‘Son,’ the father said to him, ‘you’re always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”