



Study Guide

Summer 2012 Sermon/Study Series

www.rbcpc.org/prodigoal-party

“The Prodigal Party”

Week #1
July 7/8, 2012

Next week: July 14/15 – The Prodigal Younger Brother

Scripture Reference
Prodigal Party Series – Week #1
“The Prodigal Father”

Read and reflect on the following scripture:

Luke 15:1-2

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Notes:

Luke 15: 3-10

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Notes:

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Scripture

Luke 15:1-2

1. Why do you think Luke sets up this series of three parables by describing who was being addressed?
2. What was it about Jesus that the sinners wanted to be with him while the religious leaders were offended by him? Are any of these dynamics a factor in churches today?

Luke 15:3-10

1. Describe the first two parables. What do they have in common? How is the party described?
2. What are the differences between a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost boy?

Sermon

1. The word “prodigal” means wastefully extravagant. When might it be appropriate to be extravagant?
2. Bruce explains in the sermon that Jesus’ parables are intended to make one main point. What is the main point in the first two parables?
3. Do you see the shepherd looking for the lost sheep as an image for God? Do you see the woman housecleaning to find a lost coin as an image of God? Why or why not?
4. What did you hear during the *lectio divina* of the Prodigal Son?

Life Application

The Prodigal Parties in all three stories force us to consider whether or not we would join in a party for the return of the lost son. He has been irresponsible with his inheritance. He has damaged the family reputation. This parable follows the other two parables in addressing the “sinners” and the “religious.” Do we relate more to the sinners or the religious?

Prayer

Pray that the Lord will show you an area in your life where you are rebellious and sinful like the younger son. Pray and ask the Lord to show how you have tendencies toward self-righteous judgment of others. Listen for where the Lord is inviting you to be part of a prodigal party this week.