

# The Forgiving Father

(Luke 15:11-32)

## Introduction:

1. This parable has been called many things; “The parable of the Lost Son,” “The parable of the Elder Son,” “The parable of the Lost Sons,” or “The Parable of the Forgiving Father.”
2. The parable that Jesus speaks before He begins this parable talk of the compassion of one soul.

## I. Vital Background Information

- A. Parables have been said to be “earthly stories with heavenly meanings.”
  1. Our English word ‘parable’ comes from the Greek word “*parabole*.”
  2. The word means to “lay beside.”
- B. Jesus speaks these parable in the presence of the Pharisees.
  1. The Pharisees were a division of the Jews that considered themselves to be the “elite group.”

## II. The Lost Sons and the Forgiving Father (*Three Choices*)

- A. Choice #1 – The youngest son
  1. The choice was made to leave. (Luke 15:11,12)
  2. He chose to take his share. (Luke 15:12)
  3. He chose fast fortune resulting in loss. (Luke 15:13,14)
  4. He suffered the dreadful consequences. (Luke 15:15-17)
  5. The choice was made to return and he did. (Luke 15:17-21)
- B. Choice #2 – The forgiving father
  1. The choice was made to let the youngest son make his own choice. (Luke 15:12)
  2. The father watched for the return of his son (Luke 15:20)
  3. The father ran to meet his son. (Luke 15:20)
  4. The choice was made to forgive his son. (Luke 15:22-32)
- C. Choice #3 – The oldest son
  1. He would not rejoice in the reunion of a lost family member. (Luke 15:28)
  2. Ego and selfishness were allowed to control his thoughts and actions. (Luke 15:29-30).

## III. Our Reconciliation to God

- A. We have made the choice to leave God. (1 John 3:4)
- B. We have made the choice to live against God. (Genesis 3; Romans 3:23)
  1. The son made the choice to live against his father’s teachings. (Luke 15:13-14)
- C. We have suffered the consequences. (Romans 6:23)
- D. You must make the choice to return. (Acts 22:16)
- E. When one, *not yourself*, does return you must not have the attitude of the elder son.

## Conclusion:

1. The parables of Luke 15 gives us a fantastic picture of the compassion of God.
2. He cares for 1 in 100, 1 in 10, and 1 in 2.
3. If you are not a part of His family, He wants the best for you and invites you to live in His family.
4. If you have been a part of the family but you have left, He watches to welcome you back.