

Mosaic Teaching Guide

Teaching Series: The Parable of the Father with Two Sons

Teaching One: *The Lost Son*

Text: Luke 15

Luke 15.1,2, 11-24

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

Jesus is in Trouble

I still think it should trouble us, or at least cause us to pause, that our incarnate God was always at odds with the political and religious establishment of his day because of the people with whom He was friends.

Jesus and His Parables

A parable is a story drawn from nature or everyday life that invites the hearer to see herself in the story.

A Parable about God

Parables are usually about one thing. And these three parables are about one thing: God.

Lost Sheep, Lost Co, Lost Son

In order to hear the parable of the father and two sons the reader must understand that it is a part of a three fold set of parables about lost things.

Everyone is Lost and in Need of a Home

One of our common confessions at Mosaic is that *everyone is lost and is in need of a home*. We confess that *Jesus offers us a home in the heart of God surrounded by a faith family*.

The Lost Son

Once upon a time there was a father with two sons.
The point here is that the Jewish kid had hit rock bottom.

Blaming God

At least the foolish son knows better than to blame anyone but himself for the mess he's in.

In Praise of the Prodigal

So I want to pause for a moment and give thanks for the prodigal. The dude was messed up. But he has the good sense to swallow his pride and return home.

Playing the Prodigal

Having played the part of the prodigal a time or two, I know that you don't have to become a meth addict to be far away from home.

Coming Home at the Table