

PRODIGAL PROGRESSION

NSD 9/7/17

Luke 15:11-32 – Jesus teaches that we need to **rejoice** when a sinner repents. Regardless of state or background, we should be very joyous when a fellow repents.

The chapter shows the Lord Jesus (Son) rejoicing over a lost one of an hundred sheep (1%). Then the chapter shows the Holy Ghost rejoicing over one of ten (10%) redeemed (silver) repenting in the house of God. Lastly, the Lord shows the Father rejoicing over one of two sons (50%). *The elder brother should have rejoiced.* That was the point of the teaching.

However, the Lord also shows us a progression of thought in the prodigal's life. 1 Corinthians 4:4 shows the devil has blinded the minds of the unbelievers. But he can also blind believers to the goodness of God. **Please consider the following progression of thought** (which brings action):

- 1 **REBELLION** (Pride). Independence from the Father. I am my own man. I am not accountable. I do not have to submit to Father's rules.
- 2 **REJECTION**. I can do better on my own. I can manage money better than my Father who made (created) it. I can live my own life better by my own wisdom. I can direct my life better than the Father.
- 3 **RESPECT UNTO TO SINNERS**. I can choose my own friends. Evil communications corrupt good manners. My friends are more important than the Father. Their opinion and acceptance is more valuable than the Father's. Be not ashamed in this adulterous and sinful generation (Mark 8:38).

It is OK to say, No; or, Let me think and pray; or, I will get back to you. Learn to say, "no" to temptation.
- 4 **RIOTOUS LIVING** (Foolishness). Money goes quickly but my friends are worth it. They would do the same for me. They care for me more than the Father. Pleasure in sin for a season.
- 5 **REAPING**. Why do bad things keep happening to me? The way of transgressors is hard. Victim mentality. Why don't people help? Every good and perfect gift is from above.

- 6 **REALIZATION**. My current life is the result of the choices I have made. I am the reason I am where I am.
- 7 **RIGHT RESPONSE**. Things are better with my Father and in his house. God's way is right.
- 8 **REPENTANCE** (Change of mind, humility). I will arise and go to the Father. Calling sin what it is. He knew he had a place to return.
- 9 **RETURN** (Effort in the right direction – towards the Father).
- 10 **REJOICING** (acceptance). The father is happy to have his son returned.

The Father rejoices. The son rejoices. The servants rejoice. Only the elder son is unhappy. This ought not so to be.

BEING THE MAN GOD WANTS YOU TO BE:

We learn from God what it is to be the right man from the two men – first and second Adam:

First Adam:

Supposed to be faithful to the **Word**
Supposed to be faithful to the **Woman**
Supposed to be faithful to the **Work**
Supposed to be faithful to the **World**

Second Adam:

Was faithful to the **Word** – he is the Word. (John 1:1, John 16 – given them thy word).
Was faithful to the **Woman** (church) – Ephesians 5 – gave himself for it. Rev. 1:6
Was faithful to the **Work** – Jesus completed the work.
Was faithful to the **World** – John 3:16, Matthew 28:18-20.

The account of the Prodigal has application to each one of us. You may never get to the point where you are eating with swine, but poor thoughts and choices have consequences. The important lesson is to not start down that path, and if you have, **REALIZE the RIGHT RESPONSE**.

Don't wait for the famine. Learn early the best way is the Father's way.