



Empowering People to Change the World

## **Stop Eating in the Pig Pen**

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## Stop Eating in the Pig Pen!

### Introduction

Luke 15:11-24

- A new way (that is still biblical) to look at this parable.
  - The prodigal son isn't the lost one, rather it is the one who leaves the father's presence.
  - I am sure many of you heard this story of the Prodigal Son, it is probably one of Jesus' most famous parables, one that is quoted time and time again. How many times have you heard someone reference this when they are asking for prayer for a loved one, a wayward child, a lost relative? Those are great things to pray for, but what if this parable has a deeper meaning? What if this parable is referring to more than those who are lost. If we can look at this parable in a deeper way, I believe you will be able to unlock the secret to lasting victory over sin. I believe that this parable isn't just speaking about those who are lost, I believe it is speaking to believers who have wandered away. What if you are the prodigal!?"

### The prodigal who went astray

Verse 13

- The son asked the father for what was given to him, he asked his father for his inheritance. Only to leave the father and squander what was given to him.
  - How many times have we prayed and asked God to answer our prayer, to give us something, only for us to leave His presence and live our lives in such a way that if the world were to look at us they wouldn't see an ounce of sanctification. We look more like the world rather than looking like Christ.
  - Just like the prodigal we take what God gives us and we squander it with addictions, lust, anger, greed, all kinds of sin.
  - And just like this prodigal we try to do everything better, we try to go to every church event, we try to sign up for all these classes, we search for the podcast that will help us, we try completely new routines. Trying to make ourselves better and put ourselves back together hoping that we can be back to what it was like when we first got saved. Instead of getting us back there we become legalistic, and we start judging our works, then we start judging other's works. We end up in the pig pen longing to eat what the pigs are eating.

- This is the truth most Christians forget or miss entirely. They spend their entire life eating scraps in the pig pen, not realizing there is a feast with the father at his table.
- **The message of the New Covenant is *come as you are!***
  - The son couldn't even finish his speech he had prepared—the father wrapped him up, kissed him, and celebrated his return. **The son wasn't forgiven because he was good, the son was forgiven because the father was good.**
  - The *robe* was reserved for honored and highly esteemed guests.
  - The *ring* was indicative of sonship/the ability to approve transactions on behalf of the father.
  - The *fatted calf* was reserved for the biggest, most lavish celebration for the house.

## The prodigal who stayed

Verses 20-25

- This son refused to go in with his father and celebrate the return of his brother, he became cross with his father and the grace he was showing his younger brother. When the father came out, he showed how he was faithful and worked hard, and yet he couldn't even get a goat to party with his friends.
  - Like many believers today this son struggled with a thing called legalism.
- ***Licentiousness* lures you away from the Father, but *legalism* keeps you from the Father... only *grace* can lead you to the Father.**
  - ***Licentious living equals abusing grace.***
  - ***Legalism equals doing it without grace.***
  - ***Neither can save you.***
    - Be careful to not substitute action with adoration. Rather adoration of God should lead you to action for God.

## New Covenant

Hebrews 8:8-13

- What is the New Covenant? When we can understand this Covenant, we will be able to unlock to power to have lasting victory over sin. How?

- The word Covenant can also be contract.
- The New Covenant is a contract made between God the Father and God the Son (Jesus). This Covenant was formed so that mankind could be in right standing with God.
- What do we get from the New Covenant?
  - The Holy Spirit.
  - God will be a Father to us.
  - God will lift us up in times of turmoil/discouragement.
  - God will be our protector.
  - God will be our provider.
- “There is no such thing as a defeated Christian because there is no such thing as a defeated Christ.”
- “If you get the Son, you get everything!” – Nik Godshall