

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!





Call to Worship
Psalm 121

Psalm 121 A Song of Ascents. I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Jesus Saves

Hymn 667



We've a Story to Tell the Nations

Hymn 659





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Receiving of the Offering



2 Cor. 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“The greatest proof of Christianity for others is not how far a man can logically analyze his reasons for believing, but how far in practice he will stake his life on his belief.”

T. S. ELIOT



Today's Message

“Life Lessons to Learn, Part 2”

Scripture text: Luke 15:11-32

As we look at the story “The Parable of the Prodigal Son”, we have learn a few things: the word **prodigal** means “**wasteful**”; and how this could also be called “**The Parable of the Loving Father,**” for it emphasizes the graciousness of the father more than the sinfulness of the son.

The youngest sons **rebellion**, when he desired his share of his father estate. As if “wishing that his father was dead”, so he could live his life as he wished.

How the youngest son came to **Repentance**—he came to himself (vv. 17–19). He had to hit rock bottom, in order to remember!

The young man changed his mind about himself and his situation, and he admitted that he was a sinner. He confessed that his father was a generous man and that service at home was far better than “freedom” in the far country. It is God’s goodness, not just man’s badness, that leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4). If the boy had thought only about himself—his hunger, his homesickness, his loneliness—he would have despaired. But his painful circumstances helped him to see his father in a new way, and this brought him hope. If his father was so good to *servants, maybe he would be willing to forgive a son.*

Romans 2:2-5 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man--you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself--that you will escape the judgment of God? **Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?** But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Had he stopped there, the boy would have experienced only regret or remorse (2 Cor. 7:10), but true repentance involves the will as well as the mind and the emotions—“I will arise ... I will go ... I will say ...” Our resolutions may be noble, but unless we act on them, they can never of themselves bring about any permanent good. If repentance is truly the work of God (Acts 11:18), then the sinner will obey God and put saving faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. **For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation** without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Act 11:18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "**Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.**"

Act 20:17-21 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, **serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials** that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; **how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable**, and teaching you in public and from house to house, **testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Rejoicing—he came to the father (vv. 20–24). Here Jesus answered the accusations of the scribes and Pharisees (Luke 15:2), for the father not only ran to welcome his son, but he honored the boy's homecoming by preparing a great feast and inviting the village to attend. The father never did permit the younger son to finish his confession; he interrupted him, forgave him, and ordered the celebration to begin!

Of course, the father pictures to us **the attitude of our Heavenly Father toward sinners** who repent: He is rich in His mercy and grace, and great in His love toward them (Eph. 2:1–10). All of this is possible because of the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. No matter what some preachers (and singers) claim, we are not saved by God's love; God loves the whole world, and the whole world is not saved. **We are saved by God's grace, and grace is *love that pays a price.***

In the East, old men do not run; **yet the father ran to meet his son.** Why? One obvious reason was his love for him and his desire to show that love. But there is something else involved. This wayward son had brought disgrace to his family and village and, according to Deuteronomy 21:18–21, he should have been stoned to death. If the neighbors had started to stone him, they would have hit the father who was embracing him! **What a picture of what Jesus did for us on the cross!**

Everything the younger son had hoped to find in the far country, **he discovered back home**: clothes, jewelry, friends, joyful celebration, love, and assurance for the future. What made the difference? Instead of saying, “Father, give me!” he said, “Father, make me!” **He was willing to be a servant!** Of course, the father did not ask him to “earn” his forgiveness, because no amount of good works can save us from our sins (Eph. 2:8–10; Titus 3:3–7). **In the far country, the prodigal learned the meaning of misery; but back home, he discovered the meaning of mercy.**

The ring was a **sign of sonship**, and the “best robe” (no doubt the father’s) **was proof of his acceptance back into the family** (see Gen. 41:42; Isa. 61:10; 2 Cor. 5:21). Servants did not wear rings, shoes, or expensive garments. The feast was the father’s way of showing his joy and sharing it with others. **Had the boy been dealt with according to the Law, there would have been a funeral, not a feast.** What a beautiful illustration of Psalm 103:10–14!

Psalm 103:10-14 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, **so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him**; as far as the east is from the west, **so far does he remove our transgressions from us**. As a father shows compassion to his children, **so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him**. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

It is interesting to consider the father's description of his son's experience: **he was dead, and was now alive; he was lost, and now was found.** This is the spiritual experience of every lost sinner who comes to the Father through faith in Jesus Christ (John 5:24; Eph. 2:1–10). Note the parallels between the prodigal's coming to the father and our coming to the Father through Christ (John 14:6):

The Prodigal

He was lost (v.24)

He was ignorant (v.17)

He was dead (v.24)

There is only one way to come to the Father, and that is through faith in Jesus Christ. Have you come home?

Jesus Christ

“I am the way”

“I am the truth”

“I am the life”

Let there be Peace on Earth

Hymn 681

