

“FATHERHOOD ACCORDING TO JESUS”

Luke 15:11-31

Jesus tells the story of a model father, and as He does, He is picturing our heavenly Father. The occasion of the story is given us in the first 2 verses: “... *Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”* Jesus answers their criticism by telling 3 stories about lost things – a lost sheep, a lost coin and a lost son. His point is this: God, the heavenly Father, looks for them and welcomes them; that is the truth at heart of these stories.

The story has been called “*The Parable of the Lost Son.*” But it might better be titled: “*The Parable of the Loving Father.*” Notice 5 characteristics of this father as revealed in Luke 15:

I. HE WAS A GOOD _____ . (Luke 15:1)

II. HE WAS A GENEROUS _____ . (Luke 15:11-12)

III. HE WAS GOVERNING _____ . (Luke 15:13)

IV. HE WAS GRACIOUS TO _____ . (Luke 15:14)

V. HE WAS GENTLE IN _____ . (Luke 15:25-28)

- The heavenly Father is the only perfect Father;
- We can be better dads if we follow the model of the prodigal’s father;
- We do not parent alone – our heavenly parent wants to help us be better earthly parents.

JdonJ, Sr. 6-15-08

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