

God Loves Us; He Always Has; He Always Will

Luke 15:11-24

In 1995 I preached from this passage a message entitled "You Can Come Home."

We talked about the Prodigal Son's:

1. _____ v12-13

2. _____ v13-14

3. _____ v15-16

4. _____ v17-20

5. _____ v22-23

Tonight I want us to look at 5 things about God's love for you and me in the story of the Prodigal Son.

I. God loves us even when we're _____ His heart. v11-12

The story begins when a younger son.....

He no longer wanted to father. What he said to his father was.....

In fact what he was saying to his father was..... I want my freedom.....

Remember in that culture a son didn't get his inheritance until

after his father's _____.

According to Jewish inheritance laws, in a family where there were 2 sons the older son..... But neither son got their inheritance died.

Now to give his sons his inheritance the father would have to sell.....

II. God loves us when we're _____ away from Him. v13 stop at "far country."

Even though the father knew his son was headed for he let him go anyway.

He loved his son enough to let him learn the lesson that the journey away him.

Sometimes our Heavenly Father allows us to experience the "Far Country,"

so we can learn afresh and learn anew that there's no _____ in God's love for you & me.

III. God loves us even when we're _____ our lives. v13

Here's a young man walking away from home with his pockets full.....

And in time his pockets that were once full..... While all this is happening in the "Far Country", there's a father back home yearning for his son.....

The story gets worse:

IV. God loves us even when we're _____ in sin. v14-20

In the "Far Country" the boy is without _____, without _____
and without _____.

He's hit rock bottom, he's so low he's eating with the hogs the most culture.
The young man finally learned the lesson every prodigal son sooner or later learns.....
Even at his lowest point the father never loved his son more
than he loved him right now.

Key point: we can NEVER go so far from the Lord that we Him.
If you don't believe that JUST ASK.....

V. God loves us when we are _____ in His arms of forgiveness. v20-24

In the "Far Country" the Prodigal Son learned the meaning of _____,
back home he learns the meaning of _____.

His father gave him the:

Best robe represents _____

Ring represents his _____

His sandals represent his _____

Killed the fatted calf represents _____ restored.

There are 4 words that tell us all we need to know about the story of the Prodigal Son.

When he left he said _____.

When he came back home he said _____.

Those last 2 words can change our lives forever;

For only our God can take a little boy in the bulrushes and _____ him.....

Only our God can take a shepherd boy and _____ him.....

Only our God can take an obscure Jewish girl and _____ her.....

Only our God can take a cursing fisherman and _____ him.....

Grateful our God is in the _____ - _____ business.