

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Have you ever felt like someone was standing in the way of your dreams?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. According to Luke 15:1-2, what issue did the Pharisees and religious leaders have with Jesus and why?
3. Read Luke 15:11-13. What stands out at you and why?
4. According to Deuteronomy 21:17, how much should the oldest son receive of his inheritance?
 - a. If there are two sons, the oldest is to receive two-third, and the younger one-third. However, this only occurred if the father died.
 - b. What was this younger son essentially saying?
 - c. How do you think the father felt?
5. What type of greed was Jesus talking about in Luke 12:15?
6. The Greek word translated as "estate" here is the word, *bios*. *Bios* means "life".
 - a. According to this translation, what was the prodigal requesting?
7. Have you ever been in a good situation, and did not realize how good it was until you lost it? Please share!
8. TD Jakes said, "The prodigal wasn't satisfied to have the benefits of the house, he wanted control of the house." Would you agree or disagree? Why?
9. The father agreed to this younger son's request. Do you think that would have surprised those who live in Hebrew culture? What does the Old Testament say

about parents and discipline? Please read Exodus 20:12; Leviticus 19:3; and Deuteronomy 21:18-21.

10. How does the father reflect the heart of our heavenly father in Romans 2:4?
11. What does it say about the heart of this prodigal when he moved to a "distant land?" Who lived in the distant land?
12. There are times when God allows people to pursue their sinful desires. Please read Romans 1:18-29. What do you see in this passage? How does someone get to this spiritual point? What internal decisions do they make?
13. He wasted his money in wild living. What kind of wild living? Who do you think was feeding this boy lies? Compare with Ephesians 6:12; Ephesians 5:16-17; and John 10:10.

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- "We are always heading for trouble whenever we value things more than people, pleasure more than duty, and distant scenes more than the blessings we have right at home."- Wiersbe
- Sometimes..
 - We want blessings, without surrendering.
 - We want the benefits, without the commitment.
 - We want the rights, without the sacrifice.
- There is a name that is not mentioned in this parable but we must talk about him. He's behind the beliefs of this prodigal son. His name is Satan.
- Don't squander your life away!