

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
03/05/2023

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

SUNDAY SCHOOL Quarter Preview

Jesus Calls Us

- **March 2023:** Called from the Margins of Society – **Luke, Matthew, John, Mark**
- **April 2023:** Experiencing the Resurrection – **Luke, John**
- **May 2023:** Birth of the Church – **The Book of Acts**

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Jesus Calls Us

Called from the Margins of Society

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11 – 24

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Background

- Jesus frequently used parables as a means of teaching profound, divine truths.
- Stories such as these are easily remembered, the characters bold, and the symbolism rich in meaning as he used familiar terms (salt, bread, sheep, etc.).
- Parables were a common form of teaching in Judaism.

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Background

- Parables required more explanation, and at one point in His ministry, Jesus began to teach using parables exclusively.
- Jesus would only explain His parables to His Disciples

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Lesson Text

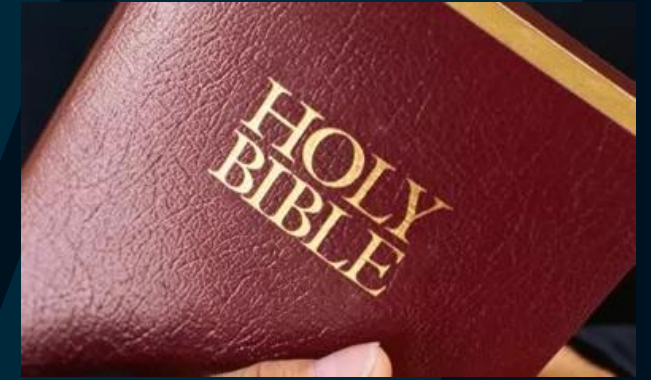
Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:11-13 (NKJV)

¹¹ Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.

¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.

¹³ And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with [a]prodigal living.



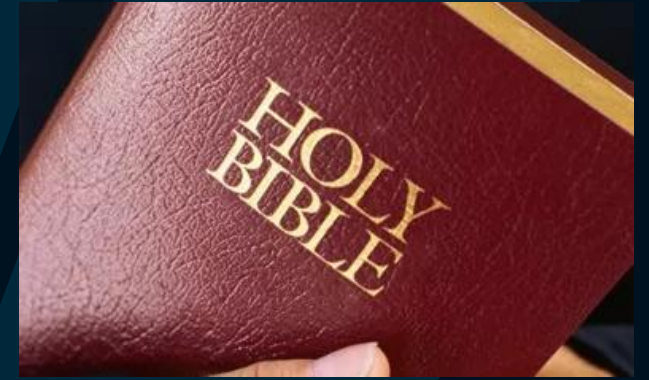
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Lesson Text

Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:14-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the ^[b] pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.



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COMMENTARY – LET THEM GO...

- As parents, we want to instill knowledge, understanding and wisdom into our children, but EXPERIENCE and FAILURE are the best teachers
- Loving our children enough to let them go is painful, but often necessary
- In those times, we can stand on God's Word that if we train them up in the way they should go, when they grow old, they will not depart from it (**Proverbs 22:6**)

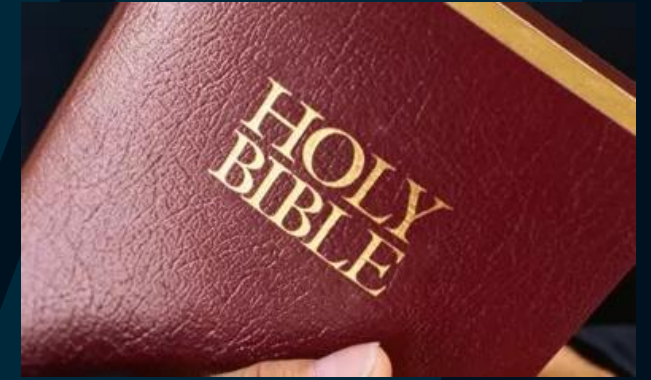
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Lesson Text

Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:17-19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!
¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,
¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” ’



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COMMENTARY – HUMILITY

The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility

– Proverbs 15:33

Self-Awareness is one of the greatest blessings God can give us. It can be the catalyst for us to make the changes necessary to change our situation

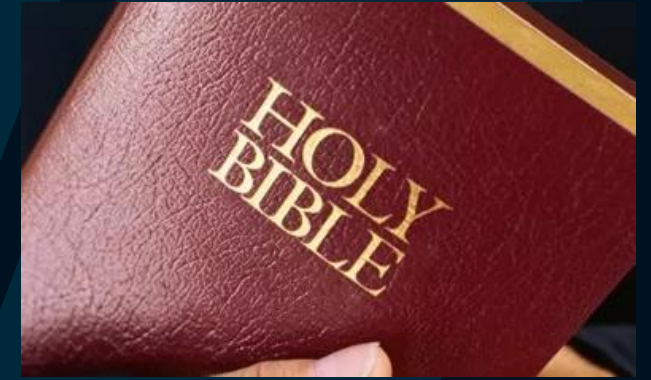
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Lesson Text

Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:20-21 (NKJV)

²⁰ “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”



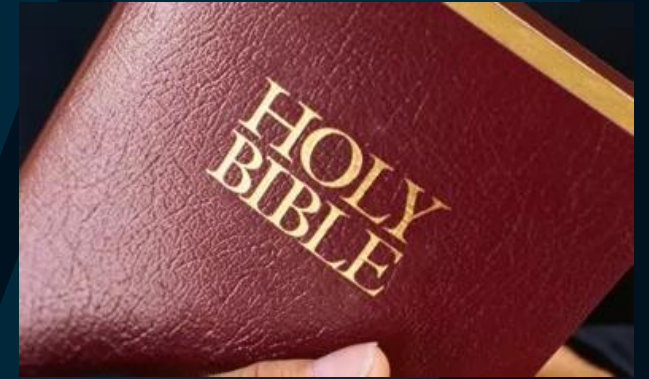
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Lesson Text

Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:22-24 (NKJV)

²² “But the father said to his servants, [c] ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.



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COMMENTARY – COME HOME!

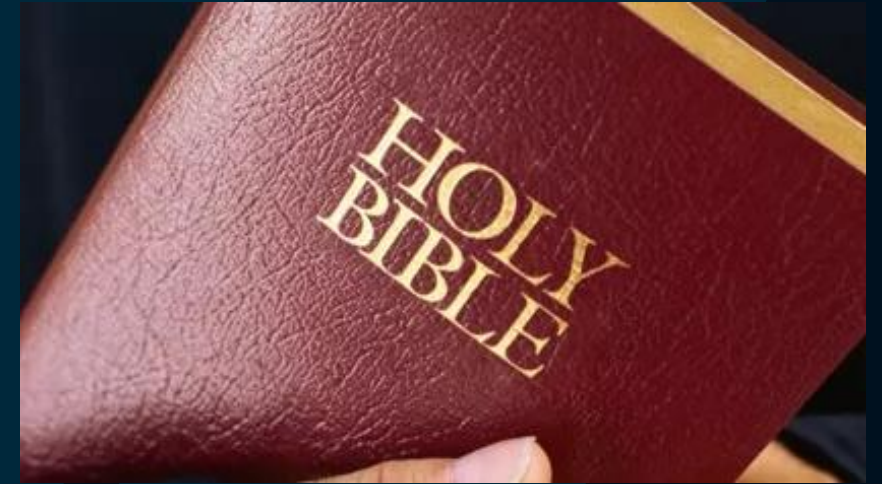
- Conversely, pride keeps people away from God. It is however a pride built on a false narrative – often imagined
- Some of that narrative comes religious people. They preach a god of vengeance and of punishment
- But the truth is, God is not angry at us. He wants to restore our relationship

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Scripture References



2 CORINTHIANS 5:11 - 21

The Ministry of Reconciliation

Church School Creed & Benediction

CREED

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a **Christian**
Every Christian a **worker**
Every worker **trained**
A worker that **will not be ashamed**
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

BENEDICTION

We have come
We have studied
We have learned
So until our next coming together
To study God's word
May His rich blessings reside with you
And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN