James #35

There is a time to weep and a time to laugh.

Let us finish up in Luke 15 studying the parable of the prodigal son.

We noted that the parable highlights the family of GOD – God the Father who gives us all abundant blessings and time. Yet HE still respects our free will to choose against HIS plan.

The youngest son in the parable was blessed beyond what he deserved.

In fact, it taught us the estate and wealth was all the FATHER’s, neither son was deserving of any of it while the Father was still alive.

/The youngest son represents the impatience and arrogant Christian, who refuses to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are firmly set, upon their own timing and their own plans, rejecting the timing and plan of GOD. They take blessings such as time, talent and treasure and pursue empty lies and lust patterns out in the devil’s world.\

They seek the approval of man, fleshly desires and the momentary success that tickles their pride.

The result is eventually, they become entangled in a slave market of counterfeits and false doctrines, driven by demonic influence.

Luk 15:15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed pigs.

The reminder in this statement is the Israelites were told to avoid certain animals and foods.

Swine was one of the most despised on the list. Yet this is where the young Jewish man ended up, in the end this is what the devil’s world gives you;

[Luk 15:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/16/s_988016) “And he longed to have his fill of the carob pods that the pigs were eating, and no one was giving him *anything.*

[Luk 15:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/17/s_988017) “But when he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired laborers have more than enough bread, but I am dying here from hunger!

This is a pivotal point, a turning in the mind.

This young man, like all CA Bels is aristocracy – we are the Royal Family of God.

[/Luk 15:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/18/s_988018) ‘I will set out and go to my father, and will say to him, “**Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight**;

This rebellious son had mentally surrendered to the justice of God and now had begun to confess his sin. This is all GOD wants, the honest surrender and the acknowledgement.\

Repentance is a turning around in the mind and then the acknowledgement of the justice system of GOD.

It does not involve confession of sin to anyone other than GOD through your Believer Priesthood.

Do not buy the lie that you have to atone for your sins and feel guilt or sorrow so others can take note of your change of heart.

It is a private matter between you and God. REPEAT

[Luk 15:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/19/s_988019) I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired laborers.”’

Every one of us have these feelings of worthlessness when we fail and sin – we need not allow that to overwhelm us, simply take responsibility.

/The forgiveness of sin is not the issue – it was dealt with on the CROSS. The responsible acknowledgement, is the protocol. We know that we have eternal security, which in turn tells us, that sins are already forgiven. The fellowship and spiritual power have been interrupted which has nothing to do with salvation. This is why shame, guilt and begging are never required and only leads to chain sinning.\

Your emotional rollercoaster will only lead to working hard to get back in God’s good graces which you really never lost.

God does not operate on our emotional scale of ups and downs, shame and guilt. Any work from the flesh is only keeping you in a state of temporal death.

 REPEAT

[/Luk 15:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/20/s_988020) “So he set out and came to his father. But **when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him****,* and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

This young man already adjusted to the justice of GOD mentally before he approached the estate.\

Notice he did not keep begging and seeking anything from the cosmic system.

He instead turned and immediately fled back to his Father.

/This is also historically important, the wealthy father would normally await the son’s arrival and allow the son to present his case for forgiveness. This FATHER runs out toward the son and fully embraces and kisses (continually). This is written in the Aorist Tense – pointing to the fact that it is already done (past, present and future). It meant the FATHER fully took possession of the lost son – full restoration.\

[Luk 15:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/21/s_988021) “And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

[/Luk 15:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/22/s_988022) “But the father said to his slaves, ‘**Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet;**

The restoration is all done by the power of the FATHER, who refuses to allow the son to wallow any further in asking forgiveness.\

In the original context it appears that the Father interrupts the son during his appeal for forgiveness.

The robe, the ring and the sandals represent his position back in the family, slaves did not have any of that.

[Luk 15:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/23/s_988023) and bring the fattened calf, slaughter it, and let’s eat and celebrate;

[/Luk 15:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/24/s_988024) for **this son of mine was dead and has come to life again**; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate.

Temporal death is over once the adjustment to the justice of GOD occurred. Now fellowship and intimacy were restored.\

The Father did not need graphic details and long-drawn-out explanations. The Father just wants us to make the adjustment and get back into the flow of fellowship and intimacy.

[Luk 15:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/25/s_988025) “Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

Now we see the legalistic Christian enter the picture.

[Luk 15:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/26/s_988026) “And he summoned one of the servants and *began* inquiring what these things could be.

[Luk 15:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/27/s_988027) “And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.’

The older brother should rejoice that his younger brother is alive and safely back home.

[/Luk 15:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/28/s_988028) “But **he became angry and was not willing to go in**; and his father came out and *began* pleading with him.

Legalism hates grace and rejects mercy and forgiveness; it prefers to take inventory of wrongs and sins. \

Remember the parables were often heard, or at least repeated to the Pharisees, as well as many other Jews who were staunch supports of the Sanhedrin.

[/Luk 15:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/29/s_988029) “But he answered and said to his father, ‘Look! For so many years **I have been serving** you and **I have never neglected a command of yours**; and *yet* you never gave me a young goat, so that **I might celebrate** with my friends;

The focus on self-righteousness and self- power and self-desires is the root of bitterness (Heb 12:15) on display.\

[Luk 15:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/30/s_988030) but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’

Notice he does not even acknowledge his own brother – he instead says, this son of yours!

No one knew exactly what type of loose living the younger brother wasted his blessings on.

 REPEAT

Yet the righteous, religious Christian will always assume the worst.

The bottom line is, SIN is SIN – there is no higher level of one sin over the other.

[Luk 15:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/31/s_988031) “And he said to him, ‘Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.

The Father calls him – *teknon,* meaning a son under the authority of a loving father, the FATHER is addressing the older son with great care as well.

Never focus on the blessings or even the failures of another.

Keep the humility of focusing on all that GOD is doing and has done for you!

[/Luk 15:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/15/32/s_988032) ‘But we had to celebrate and rejoice, **because this brother of yours was dead and *has begun* to live**, and *was* lost and has been found.’”

Coming out of Temporal Death means you are back into a journey toward growth. It must begin a serious process of allowing the WORD to wash over us once again.\

Let us close today reading the wisdom of Solomon as we close out this current series on death.

Turn to Ecclesiastes chapter 3 RF.

/Death is seen as spiritual, physical, temporal, operational (dead works), as well as a second death (Unbels) and sexual death;

Rom 4:16 Without becoming weak in faith **he contemplated his own body, now *as good as* dead**since he was about a hundred years old, and the **deadness of Sarah’s womb**;\

The fact is we have fleshly bodies that are declining, even though we can and should maintain them to the best of our ability.

Other than the generation of the Rapture - physical death is a reality.

There has to be a relaxed mental attitude about our current condition, because we have faith and a focus on our eternal position.

Either that …or we succumb to the trickery of Satan and live in anxiety and fear.

 REPEAT

/Ecc 3:1 **There is an appointed time for everything**. And there is a time for every matter under heaven—

God has a perfect plan with precise timing. We have to reach a higher level of maturity to truly accept and live in this fact.\

[Ecc 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/3/2/s_662002) A time to give birth and a time to die;A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

This section of Ecclesiastes is extremely impactful and right to the point.

King Solomon is listed as one of the wisest men in scripture. Even with his own failures he spoke clearly upon the reality of this temporary world.

/[Ecc 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/3/3/s_662003) **A time to kill** and a time to heal;A time to tear down and a time to build up.

This is a reference to military combat and law enforcement issues. This is also referred to concerning self-defense – not murder.\

God has ordained military and law enforcement to apply lethal force in volatile situations. Just as self defense and protection of the innocent sometimes takes on the extreme measures.

/[Ecc 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/3/4/s_662004) **A time to weep** and a time to laugh; **A time to mourn** and a time to dance.

God does not want us divorced from our emotions. He expects us to have times of deep sorrow and even mourning, yet emotions can never take the lead and dominate for long periods.\

[Ecc 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/3/5/s_662005) A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

[Ecc 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/3/6/s_662006) A time to search and a time to give up as lost;A time to keep and a time to throw away.

The more mature the Believer becomes the easier it is to apply these principles.

[Ecc 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/3/7/s_662007) A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;A time to be silent and a time to speak.

[Ecc 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/3/8/s_662008) A time to love and a time to hate;A time for war and a time for peace.

One of the greatest examples of a mature Christian handling a devasting death and difficulty, is seen in the death of David and Bathsheba’s baby.

/2Sam 12:16 David therefore **pleaded with God for the child**; and David **fasted and went and lay all night on the ground**. 17 The elders of his household stood beside him in order to help him up from the ground, but **he was unwilling and would not eat food with them.\**

Prayer, fasting and focus as well as crying or mourning was the right thing done in the right way.

/[2Sa 12:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/12/18/s_279018) Then it happened on the **seventh day that the child died**. And David’s servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, “Behold, while the child was *still* alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to us. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do himself harm?”\

King David was sobbing, praying and mourning so deeply for seven days they were afraid of his final reaction.

/[2Sa 12:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/12/19/s_279019) But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, **David perceived that the child was dead**; so David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” And they said, “He is dead.” 20So **David got up from the ground, washed, anointed *himself,* and changed his clothes**; and he went into **the house of the LORD and worshiped**. Then he went to his own house, and when he asked, they served him food, **and he ate**.\

It never interfered with his relationship with God. His sorrow had a beginning, a middle and then an ending.

/[2Sa 12:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/12/21/s_279021) Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? **You fasted and wept for the child *while he was* alive**; but when the child died, you got up and ate food.”22 And he said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘**Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, and the child may live**.’\

This is a very mature Bel. Your life has to press forward; sorrow and pain should not detour you for long periods of time.

/[2Sa 12:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/12/23/s_279023) “But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? **I am going to him, but he will not return to me**.”

David knew the plan and essence of GOD – showing us all children, before the age of accountably, are immediately face to face with the LORD at physical death. \

In fact, I believe the Bible teaches us anyone who has never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, or cannot understand the gospel - is immediately brought to heaven upon physical death.