

The Parable of the Prodigal Son**The Characters in the Story**

1. (v 11) Previously, Jesus was criticized for receiving sinners (v 2), and so he told parables to illustrate God's love for sinners. All three parables in Luke 15 are related because they speak of things that were lost and then are _____. (v 32)
2. With the third parable, Jesus introduced three new characters, and who they represent is important to understanding the story.
 - (a) The father represents _____ who receives sinners.
 - (b) The oldest son represents the _____, who resented Jesus' receiving sinners.
 - (c) The youngest son represents _____ who repented and came to God for forgiveness.

TEXT: Luke 15:11-32**STORY ELEMENTS:****Setting:** circa 30 AD**Main Characters:** God, Jesus, some publicans and notorious sinners, and some Pharisees**Plot:** Jesus teaches on the love of God for the sinner.**Key word(s):** "_____"**Climax:** *Luke 15:17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!***"I once was lost..."**

3. (vv 12-13) The youngest son demanded his inheritance from his father – an insulting request that insinuated that the son was essentially _____ his own father.
4. (vv 14-16) With his portion of his inheritance, the youngest son went into a far-off country and wasted his substance on _____ living.
5. When a famine struck the land, he found himself homeless and penniless – he became so hungry he was willing even to eat the husks normally fed to _____. In this condition, the son of a wealthy landowner became lower than the most despised animal.

"...but now am found."

6. (vv 17-19) When his sorry condition jarred him back to reality, the prodigal realized that his father's lowest servants were better off than he was. He was determined to make things right with his father, even if he was only afforded the position of _____.
7. (vv 20-21) The father saw the prodigal "afar off," which shows that he was waiting and _____ for the return of his son; and the father "ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him," showing that he gladly received him back.

→ To us, this element of the story is endearing, but to the Pharisees, it would have been _____. In their eyes, no man in his right mind would receive a wayward son with such readiness and emotion; rather, the son would've been forced to stay outside on the doorstep where he would plead for mercy for hours – perhaps even days.

