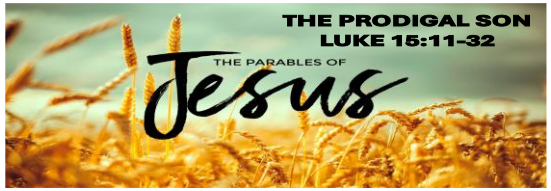

Question: _____ did Jesus often employ the use of parables?
Answer: Because parables illustrate and clarify truth to people _____ to hear and have the opposite effect on those who oppose and _____ Christ.

Jesus used parables …

1. To _____ seekers from skeptics!

Matthew 13:10-17 {Page **1488** Pew Bible}
Hebrews 11:6

2. To solicit personal _____!

The use of parables _____ direct confrontation and forced a listener to seriously ponder the moral and spiritual applications rather than simply being _____ what to believe.

3. To _____ Old Testament prophecy! – **Matthew 13:34–35**

THE PRODIGAL SON

1. This parable is _____ about the heart of two sons!
2. This parable is _____ about the Father's love than anything!

The story doesn't _____ with the return of the prodigal, but with an _____ to the older brother!

The last half of this parable is where the most _____ application is found! The part intended for the Pharisees!

1. The _____ Son and the _____ Father – V. 11-24

Perhaps nothing demonstrates the love we have for our Heavenly Father more than how we handle the failures of our _____ children!

There are several key moments in the life of the Prodigal Son:

1) He _____ the father's house! – **V. 11-12**

Our responsibility to raise and nurture our children under the auspice of our guidance and tutelage is _____! – **Romans 14:12**

Children do not _____ the faith of their parents! Nor is it genetically passed down!

Our kids must humble themselves before God's Word and make their own _____ faith commitment! – **Proverbs 22:6**

At the time of Christ's parable, only a father could initiate a discussion about inheritance, _____ the son.

There _____ _____ moments in parenting when we experience the heartache our Heavenly Father has for his own children!

2) Living far from _____! **– V. 13-16**

He turned all his assets into ready cash, sold his property, cut all ties with his _____ and his _____. – **Galatians 6:7**

Desperation is the beginning of coming to _____!

Parents, be careful not to _____ with what God is doing by keeping your kids out of the pig pen!

3) Looking in the _____! **– V. 17-19**

The wayward son finally came to his senses and for the first time _____ saw himself as he really was! – **Romans 3:12**

The _____ we have for a wayward child is that ____ to have had to experience our own life lessons that have made us acutely aware**:** There is often more truth in the pigpen of consequences than in all the _____ of the world!

4) _____ about the father! **– V. 20-24**

The father was _____ understanding of what it must have taken for his son to come home! He did not _____ for an apology or an explanation**;** he ran to his son and embraced him!

The reestablishment of son's standing was _____!

The religious Pharisees were _____ to recognize the loving nature and purpose of the God they were commissioned to preach from the Scriptures!

There is a vast difference between following a religion and being religious _____ being spiritual and filled with the Spirit!