



November 18, 2012

Chris Hill

<sup>11</sup> Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. <sup>14</sup> But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. <sup>15</sup> Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. <sup>16</sup> And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*. <sup>17</sup> 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! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; <sup>24</sup> for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. <sup>25</sup> Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the

house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> So he answered and said to *his* father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

Luke 15:11-32 (NKJV)

### Present But Distant

- Received the \_\_\_\_\_ due the eldest son.

So he divided to them *his* livelihood. vs. 12b

- \_\_\_\_\_ to a tee

I never transgressed your commandment at any time vs. 29b

- Developed a \_\_\_\_\_ heart

<sup>8</sup> These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Matthew 15:8 (NIV2011)

## Living With a Distant Heart

- Grueling \_\_\_\_\_ rather than loving \_\_\_\_\_

But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to *his* father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; vs. 28-29a

For all these years I have been working like a slave for you.... Luke 15:29a (NRSV)

- Harsh \_\_\_\_\_ rather than generous \_\_\_\_\_

But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' vs. 30

<sup>1</sup> This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. <sup>2</sup> So he complained to the LORD about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, LORD? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. <sup>3</sup> Just kill me now, LORD! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen." Jonah 4:1-3 (NLT)

- Wounded \_\_\_\_\_ rather than thankful \_\_\_\_\_

...you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. vs 29c

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus told this story to some who had great

confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.' Luke 18:9-12 (NLT)

## The Danger of \_\_\_\_\_ Righteousness

<sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, "You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God. Luke 16:15 (NLT)

<sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. <sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:22-23 (NLT)

## My Next Step Today Is To...

- Become a child of God, not counting on my own goodness but, by responding to His offer of forgiveness and life.
- Be open to God's Spirit to expose in me any form of self-righteousness so that I might humble myself before him.
- Desire a heart that beats in tune with my heavenly Father's heart.
- Meditate on and/or memorize Matthew 15:8