

## The Runaway Luke 15:11-17

**The BIG Idea** ... Only the Father's \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ the longing soul. Psalm 16:11 ...

### Setting Up the Story

1. The Prodigal's story is part of a \_\_\_\_\_ story.
  - A parable is a hard-hitting story that illustrates a truth in God's story of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - In Luke 15, Jesus is telling back-to-back-to-back parables (the lost \_\_\_\_\_, the lost \_\_\_\_\_, the lost \_\_\_\_\_) that highlight heaven's \_\_\_\_\_ to redemption.
  - Jesus is telling these parables in response to the Pharisees' \_\_\_\_\_ that He is hanging out with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The Pharisees will hate the Prodigal's story because they are the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ son in the story.
  - Grace works only on \_\_\_\_\_ like the younger son. Luke 5:32 ...
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Prodigal's story.
  - The Father represents \_\_\_\_\_. Luke 19:10 ...  
Making it personal ... Ask God to deepen your understanding of how desperately dependent you are on His grace. Ask God to renew in you the joy of His salvation ... so that you can join in His celebration of a prodigal coming home.

### Burning Bridges

- The Prodigal: "Father, you are \_\_\_\_\_ to me."
- At its core, sin is \_\_\_\_\_ God, our Father.
- The father grants to his son the \_\_\_\_\_ to run away—and God is still doing that today. James 1:17 ...
- God is willing to endure the agony of \_\_\_\_\_ love, which is the most painful agony.

### Pursuing Happiness

- He's finally found himself. He looks around and says, "Now this is \_\_\_\_\_." But appearances can be deceiving because, apart from the Father, enjoyment is the doorway to enslavement.
- He doesn't know that he's a \_\_\_\_\_ man \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 2:1-3 ...
- He doesn't look like a dead man walking; he looks like he's really \_\_\_\_\_—until reality hits and hijacks the party. It \_\_\_\_\_ does.

### Finding Emptiness

- This Jewish young man is so \_\_\_\_\_ that he hires himself out to a Gentile farmer, who sends him into his fields to feed \_\_\_\_\_.
- He's stuck in a pig pen longing to \_\_\_\_\_ pig's \_\_\_\_\_.
- The pursuit of happiness that promised so much has provided so little. Ecclesiastes 12:13 ...
- The Prodigal's story isn't an outlier; it isn't the \_\_\_\_\_; it's the \_\_\_\_\_. It's a \_\_\_\_\_ reality. 1 Samuel 12:20-21 ...
- It's the father's \_\_\_\_\_ that will drive the Prodigal's repentance and bring him home, because every day the son's been away, his Father has never looked away. His father has been \_\_\_\_\_ and waiting—\_\_\_\_\_ for his lost son to come home.

### The Takeaway

- \_\_\_\_\_ your heart against going to other things for \_\_\_\_\_. Proverbs 4:23 ...  
Psalm 34:8, "Taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!"