

PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

LUKE CHAPTER 15



Set the scene:

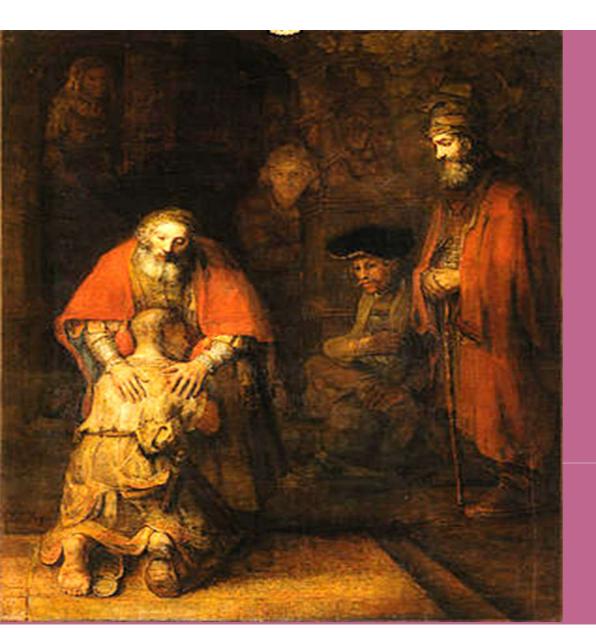
Three people in the scene –

Father = God Older Son = Law Keeping Sinner Younger Son = Law Breaking Sinner

Visio Divina for Evangelicals

Using Art & Scripture



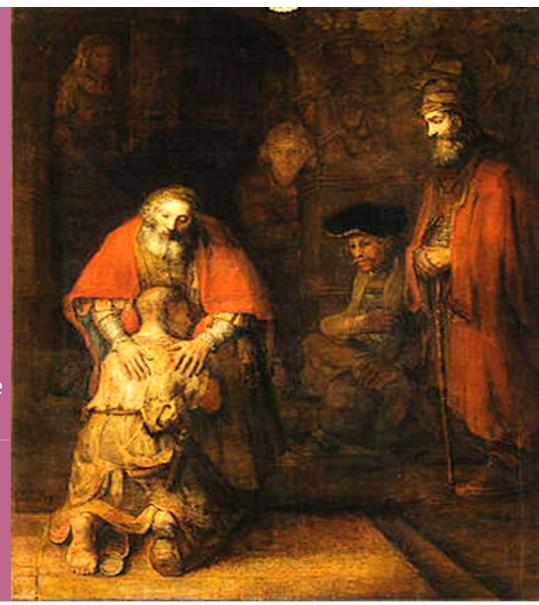


Focus on the image:

- First impressions What is the first thing that catches your eye?
- Thoughts What comes to mind as you view the image?
- Emotions What emotions arise as you look deeper at the image?
- Details Notice color, shape, contrast, lighting, etc.

Focus on Scripture:

- Find and read aloud the Scripture passage from Luke 15:11-32.
- ➤ How does the image capture the basic message of the scripture?
- ➤ How does the image capture the details and nuances of the scripture?
- What attribute(s) of God does the image portray?



Repentance in 1st century Judaism:

You must do three things:

- 1. Confess sin
- 2. Make compensation
- 3. Demonstrate sincerity

View from the Ancient Near East:

Receiving the heritage of the past:

- 1. Responsible interpretation
- 2. Understanding the culture
- 3. Know the deepest meaning

Lost Younger Son (last week):

The sin of a broken relationship:

Requested inheritance (Pride)
Plan to return (Pride)

Lost Younger Son (last week):

Restored by the gift of Father's Love:

The love of the Father was always there.
Younger son never understood
Son saw the Father suffer
Repented and received righteousness (robe)

Set Scene Two:

Enter Older Son:

Hears a party

Knows his place/function at the party

Stays aloof asking questions

Embarrasses Father with actions

Set Scene Two:

Enter Father:

Goes out to his son

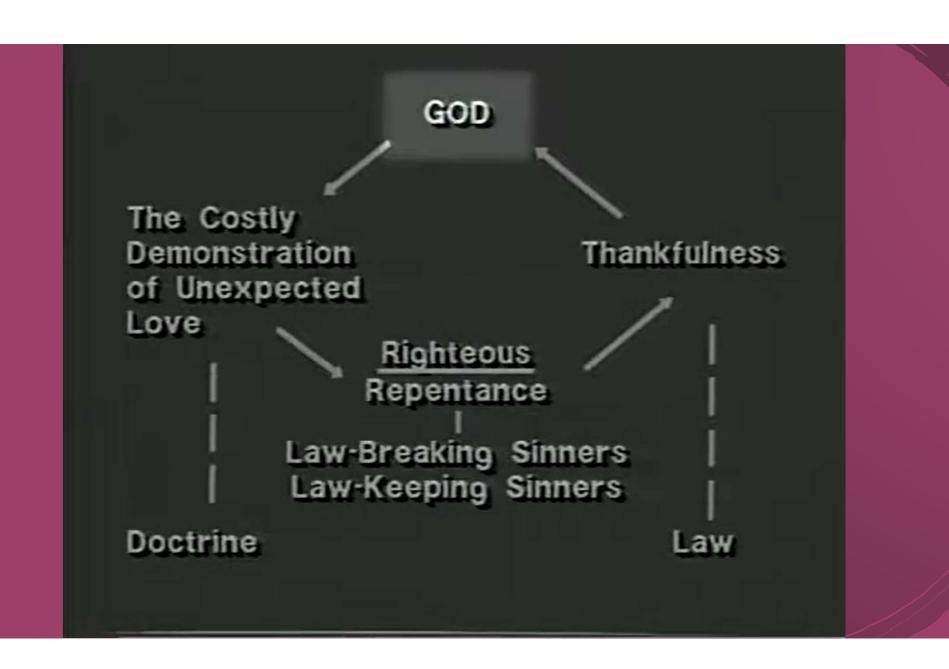
Offers same love to the older son

Son's rejection:

Father not addressed properly

States son was a slave (law)

How can Father reward a law breaker?



Father's response:

- 1. My beloved son
- 2. You don't lose a thing
- 3. Offer to "come in" still being made

With everyone listening (Curtain closes)

Reflected theological truths (definitions):

- 1. Sin = broken relationship; not broken law
- 2. Repentance = accepting Father's Love
- 3. Grace = costly offer of love
- 4. Joy = restoration to community
- 5. Sonship = new status given by the Father
- 6. Christology = self offering of love/cross
- 7. Banquet = participation