



# JESUS AS THE METAPHORICAL THEOLOGIAN

PARABLES IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



# 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

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*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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**