

+Vespers+

Guitar led Lutheran Worship

InContext

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT G4, INC.



Thanks to Irvin Amoraal (See Luke 15)

04-30-2001

OH SURE, WHEN THEY CALLED ME "FATTED CALF" YOU MOCKED ME, BUT NOW THAT THEY CALL ME THE "PARTY ANIMAL" YOU EXPECT ME TO LET YOU HANG WITH ME

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

University Lutheran Church and Student Center

www.universitylutheranchurch.org

925 W. Jefferson St., Tallahassee FL 32304

850 224 6059

Jay Winters – Pastor

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

The Gospel According to St. Luke, the 15th Chapter

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. 'Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

The Parable In Our Context – The Prodigal Son

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them.

Sometimes we can't wait for our lives to begin. When I was 13, I wanted to be 16. When I was 16, I wanted to be 18. When I was 18, I wanted to be 21. I wanted my life to "begin" in specific ways. I wanted the fullness, the extravagance, of the beginning of a new life.

- **Think back. What "life" did you want to begin when you were younger? Was it the "life" that began with a driver's license? Something else? What was so attractive about that phase of life?**

Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

The word "prodigal" has nothing to do with returning to anything, although that is the way that we use it often in our culture today. It means to be extravagant, to be wild, to be reckless. The reason this is called the parable of the "prodigal" son is because this son "squandered his property in reckless living."

- **What kinds of extravagance have you seen people chase after? What have you seen people waste their lives chasing?**

The rest of story of the Prodigal Son...

Contextualizing

- **What elements of this story are foreign to our context today?**
- **What do you think Jesus is trying to say in this story?**
- **Join in writing a contextualized paraphrase of the parable.**

'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

It might be easy for us to assume that what Jesus is trying to tell us is that extravagance is bad...that we should stay away from it and never laugh, party, or participate in anything foolish or funny. But if the father in this story is God, He's being really extravagant with this son. He's a prodigal father.

- **What kind of extravagance is good? Why do you think that some people shy away from God's extravagance?**

It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.

Jesus tells us that there is more rejoicing in heaven rejoice over one sinner repenting than when 99 righteous people. If you confess your sin, God is throwing a party for you. He thinks it is fitting to celebrate your return.

- **Be extravagant for a little while. Imagine the greatest party someone could throw for you. What kinds of gifts would be there? What would the entertainment be like? How about the food? That, and even more is yours because Jesus came to turn your life around with His cross.**

Next +Vespers+

NEW Series: *Devoted*

A look at four spiritual and devotional practices of the Christian church:

liberation, illumination, communion, mission



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN
Church & Student Center

A Jesus-Centered Community of Scripture, Faith, and Grace.

www.universitylutheranchurch.org

Please don't throw this away. Take it home and use it devotionally or leave it for others.