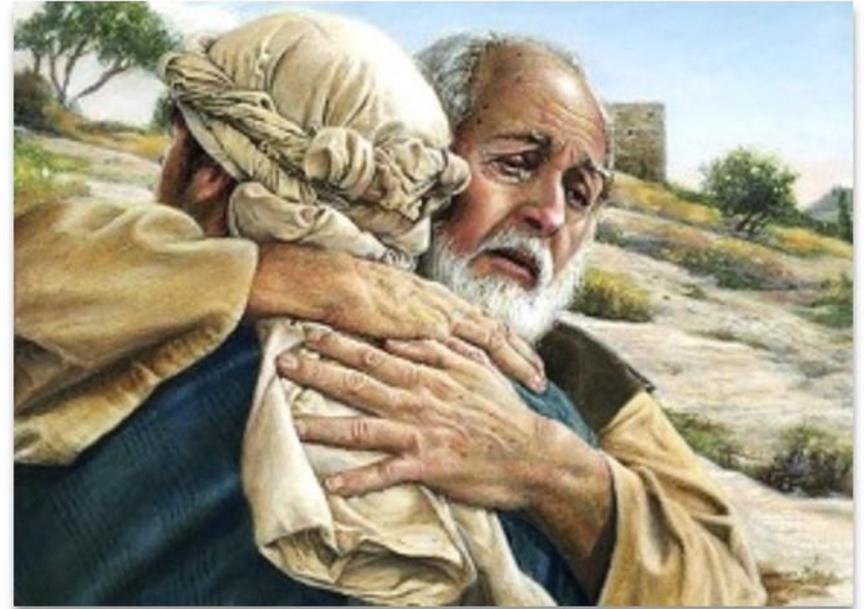


## ***Personal Application and Conversations***

1. Which spiritual lesson(s) left the greatest impression on your heart and mind?
2. What stood out to you as new information or you saw it from a new perspective?
3. Do you think it is easier to be patient with a prodigal or a hypocrite?
4. Which other Bible passages could help someone understand that doing good works will not earn them entrance into heaven?
5. Write your ending to this story.



“The greatest short story ever written.”

—Charles Dickens

*Three Parables—One Theme*

Luke 15

Pastor Dennis Mohler

January 16, 2022



Luke chapter 15 has three parables about finding what was lost. Jesus is describing and illustrating the celebratory joy that fills heaven over the repentance of sinners. However, the mind of a Pharisee could not conceive of God reaching out to sinners or celebrating over their repentance because it was not enough...you had to have works!

In these three parables, the cast of characters are the shepherd, woman, and father. All of them represent Jesus Christ who "...came to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10). The first two parables emphasize Christ's roll as the seeker. The third parable, the Prodigal Son, looks at conversion from the sinner's perspective. It's the only one that gives us a look at what true repentance looks like.

#### The Cast of Characters

The Father—Jesus Christ who seeks and saves that which is lost

The Younger Son—flagrant rebellious nonreligious sinner

The Older Son—a religious sinner with a thin veneer of respectability

The Pharisees—the reason for the parable (see Luke 16:15)

The Prodigal Son

Scene One—*Rejection*

Scene Two—*Ruin*

Scene Three—*Repentance*

Scene Four—*Recovery*

Scene Five—*Resentment*

The Absent End—Everyone who hears this parable writes his or her own ending by their response to the kindness of God toward sinners.