General Outline


Introduction:
- The necessity of this parable came from the Pharisees looking down on the company that Christ kept
- Christ then gives a series of parables to teach us that God rejoices when people turn to Himself
- Christ charges the Pharisees that they too will rejoice if they are part of God’s family

1) The Lost Son (Vs. 11-16)
   A. The son took what he though belonged to him
   B. The son squandered his father’s possessions
   C. The son went from being a son of a noble, rich man to being a beggar unable to care for himself

Application:
- Understand that before God had saved us we were squandering the common grace He had given to us
- We were spiritually unable to care for ourselves

2) The Gracious Father (Vs. 17-24)
   A. The son repented and decided to return to apologize and beg to be a servant
   B. The gracious father embraced him with open arms
   C. The father called others to celebrate this lost son being found

Application:
- Recognize that God rejoices when sinners come to Him
- Since God embraces sinners as his children, so should we

3) The Angry Brother (Vs. 25-32)
   A. The brother was angry that he had never been recognized like this
   B. He rejected the father and distanced himself as the younger son had done earlier
   C. The father calls him to understand that this celebration makes him no more or less a son than his younger brother

Application:
- The father represents God
- The younger son represents Gentiles and sinful people
- The older son represents the Pharisees or those that know God or have been taught about God
- Recognize that God is gracious to embrace both the irresponsible son and the self-righteous son
- He calls the irresponsible ones to now live as His son
- He calls the self-righteous ones to rejoice in their other brothers
Conclusion:

In conclusion, let us praise God that He embraces all people and makes them His children. Let us always rejoice when others, that seem to not be much like us, also join His family.

Source: