

*Into the World: Becoming the Presence of Jesus in Your Community – Week One*

# ***A Window into the Heart of God***

*The Parable of the Prodigal Sons – Luke 15:11-32*

**Introduction:** God calls Christians into the world with a mission to take the gospel to all people. But to skillfully move into the world, we need to know God's heart. What kind of love does he have? How does he show that love? Only by grasping these answers can we serve and love as he does. In the parable of the two prodigal sons we get a clear picture into the heart of God. Our God shamelessly loves every kind of person who is lost.

## **1. *ACT ONE – The father seeks his younger son. Luke 15:11-24***

- A. The Son demands his inheritance. 15:11-12a
- B. The Father liquidates half his estate. 15:12b
- C. The Son goes to the far-off country and hits rock bottom. 15:13-16
- D. The Son devises a way to return to his father. 15:17-19
- E. Father and Son have a reunion. 15:20-24

## **2. *ACT TWO – The father seeks his older son. Luke 15:25-32***

- A. The older brother has some positive traits. 15:25-27
  - 1. He's a hard worker. 15:25
  - 2. He's a strong leader. 15:26
- B. The older brother has some negative traits. 15:28
  - 1. He wants to control the father by controlling his spending. 15:28a
  - 2. He is resentful over the father's forgiveness. 15:28
- C. The older brother then humiliates his father. 15:28
  - 1. He forces his father come to him outside the house. 15:28
  - 2. He addresses his father with profound disrespect. 15:29-30
  - 3. He fails to value what his father values. 15:31
- D. The parable can be examined in two ways: we can see it from the vantage point of the sons, or we can use it as a lesson about God.

## **3. *LESSONS –***

- A. God is on mission.
- B. God wants us to be on mission.
- C. When we are on mission we will have joy.
- D. What about you? Are you more like the older son or the younger?