

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit
Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 1 February 28, 2023 – March 05, 2023

Unit I: Called from the Margins of Society, has four lessons; **lessons one** is from the book of Luke, which examines Jesus parable of the prodigal son. **Lesson two** is from the book of Matthew, by which Jesus turns society's preferences upside-down as HE declares a child as "Greatest." **Lesson three** is from John's Gospel, which examines Jesus's encounter with an outcast Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. **Lesson four** deals with the Gospel of Mark, which explores Jesus' healing of a man possessed by legion of demons.

Subject: Love in Difficult Times

Text: Luke 15: 11-24

Key Verse: The son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son (Luke 15: 21, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Two sons (Luke 15: 11-16)
- 2) A Foolish son Repents (Luke 15: 17-19)
- 3) A Father's unconditional Love (Luke 15: 20-24)

Introduction:

We have lived long enough to know that, living in this world as humans beings, we have the tendency to exclude others, who infiltrate our faith community that are not of the same skin color or they do not measure up to our standards as community members. When we disregard those on the margins of society. We often misinterpreted biblical standards and set up barriers to those who are in need of salvation. During JESUS'S earthly ministry, JESUS confronted similar type attitudes and practices that was held by Israel's religious leadership. The Israelite leaders refused to associate with those who did not live up to their pharisaical standards. But JESUS who was aware of HIS mission, disregarded the Israelite leaders artificial societal barriers and HE chose to reach out and include the outcasts and the marginalized. JESUS'S desire to seek and save the lost, and to express heaven's joy when they come to GOD the Father in faith as JESUS illustrated in the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke's gospel. The lesson of the Prodigal Son is for the faith community leaders to know that they are responsible to model their concern for all of humanity's salvation, especially those who are thought of as not a worthy candidates for conversion.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- Two sons (Luke 15: 11-16)

Notice how JESUS begins the parable by stating that a man had two sons, foreshadowing a contrast between them later in the text (Luke 15: 11). The actions, attitudes, and the decision of the younger son are shown first. The younger son asked his father for his portion of the family inheritance, and his father graciously granted the younger son his request, dividing his property between the two sons (Luke 15: 12). The younger son gather his belongs and left home on his journey into a far country, where he wasted his inheritance with riotous living (Luke 15: 13). The younger son learned that he had made a foolish and

costly mistake. He had now ran out of money and to top all that off a famine occurred in the land, and he found himself in need (Luke 15: 14). The younger son now was compelled to find work, and found himself working to feed swine, the worse kind of animal, to a Jew (Luke 15: 15). Now, in his hunger, the younger son contemplated eating what he fed the swine because no one gave him anything to eat, not even a piece of bread. Now, the younger son had hit rock bottom and was now in the position to reflect more clearly about his condition.

Love in Difficult Times!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **A Foolish son Repents (Luke 15: 17-19)**

The Younger son found himself in a life -threatening need, because of his unwise decisions and attitudes. As a result, the younger son came to his senses or he came to himself (Luke 15; 17). The younger son recalled that in his father's house even the slaves had more than enough to eat. So, he carefully made out a plan to what he would say to his father (Luke 15: 18). The younger son decided to repent for his actions and attitude, and say to his father that he had sinned against heaven, and before thee (his father), by doing this he acknowledged that his behavior forfeited his right to be called a son (Luke 15: 19).

Love in Difficult Times!

Lesson Pointer # 3

- **A Father's Unconditional Love (Luke 15: 20-24)**

Notice, that JESUS said that the son went to his father. And while the younger son was a far way off the father saw him and was filled with compassion for his younger son; the father ran to his younger son, threw his arms around him and kissed (Luke 15: 20). The actions by the Father express the Father's joy for his younger son return, and that the Father had forgiven him. The young son confessed and repented of his sins, by saying, Father I have sinned against heaven and against you, I am no longer worthy to be called your son (Luke 15: 21). The Father forgiveness of the younger son sins are a reminder to us all that JESUS CHRIST forgives us when we repent and turn to HIM with evident. The LORD JESUS CHRIST rejoices with great joy every time one repents and is converted (Luke 15: 22-24). We are to rejoice with great joy when one sinner comes to JESUS CHRIST.

