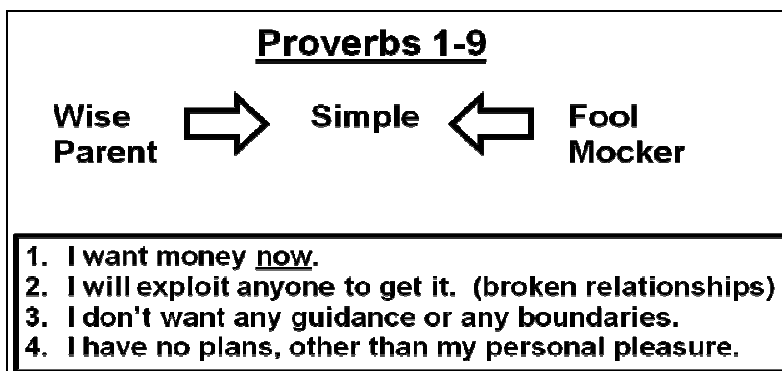
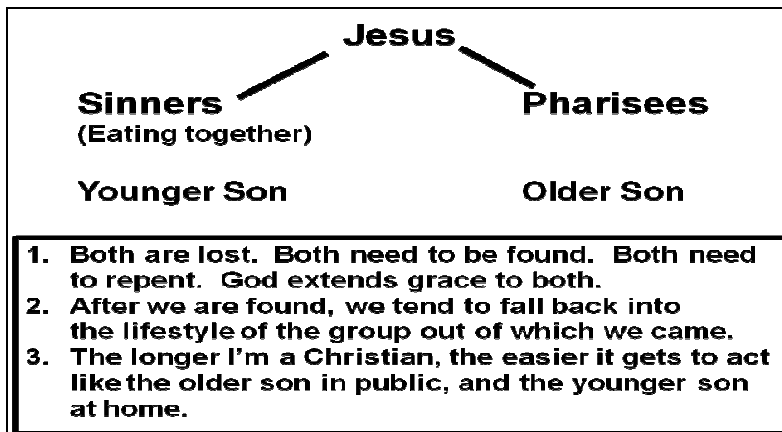


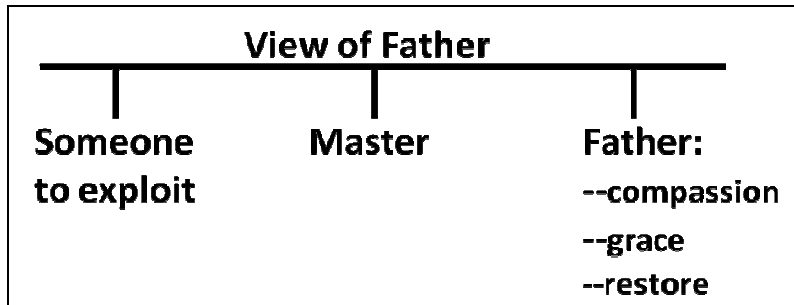
**Lost and Found: “I Matter to God”**  
**Luke 15:11-24**

**Luke 15: The Parable of the Prodigal Son**

<sup>11</sup> And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “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! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.’ <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.





## Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help in the transformation process in which the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

### Monday-Tuesday

- Read Luke 15:11-24. What observations can you make about the “younger son” and about the “father”? In what way does the younger son picture the “sinners” in verses 1-2? A typical picture of “younger brothers” in that culture would portray them as lazy, irresponsible, covetous, and greedy. In what way does the “younger son” fit this cultural picture?
- Jesus was answering the criticism of the Pharisees about why he ate with sinners. In what way is this parable an answer to that criticism?
- The younger son goes to a “distant country.” What does this show about his distancing himself from the father?
- Is this a part of your background? In what way does this lifestyle continue to influence you? What are you doing to turn away from it and follow the Lord? What do you need to trust God for that will help you to turn from this lifestyle and to follow Jesus?

### Wednesday-Thursday

- Read Luke 15:11-24. What does the son begin to recognize? What do you think it means that “he came to himself” or “he came to his senses”? What problem does he deal with? What is his plan of action?
- From this parable, what do you find out about “repentance”? What does repentance look like for the younger son? It might be helpful to look the word up in a Bible Dictionary or in your Study Bible.
- Are there areas of your life that you need to repent? This is more than mere words and more than just will-power. I begin to realize that “I’m sick” and “I can’t heal myself.” Further, “I have no claims on God.” “I can only rely upon His mercy and compassion.”

### Friday-Saturday

- Read Luke 15:11-24. What observations can you make about the father and how does this picture portray God? What other observations can you make from the following passages about God’s character? See Luke 11:1-13 and 12:21-34.
- How can this parable help you to develop your understanding of who God is and how He works in our lives? Share with someone what you’re learning and the changes coming about in your life.