
SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES
LOST &
FOUND
SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2026

LUKE 15:8-10

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

LUKE 15:11-24

THE PRODIGAL SON

LESSON THREE: PART ONE

THE PRODIGAL PRINCIPLE

The Prodigal Principle is a spiritual pattern showing that living by your own rules leads to Rebellion, Reversal, Repentance and eventually Restoration.

The principle highlights how human failure meets God's extravagant mercy and forgiveness.

The Four Steps:

1. Rebellion
2. Reversal
3. Repentance
4. Restoration

STEP ONE: REBELLION

A person decides to walk away from God and live life on their own terms.

REBELLION

Luke 15:11-13

And He said, “A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.’ So, he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later,

the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

1 SAMUEL 15:23

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.

“I’m in control. I will make life work my way, without God.”

Four Natural Signs of Rebellion:

1. Impatience with God's Timing.

PSALM 27:14

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

2. Desire to be in Control

3. Irresponsibility and Carelessness

"One person being irresponsible can cause so much pain.”

4. Moral Lapse and Decline

STEP TWO: REVERSAL

The person wastes their resources, hits rock bottom, and faces severe hardship or poverty as a result of their choices.

“Our lives are fashioned by our choices. First we make our choices. Then our choices make us.”

REVERSAL

Luke 15:14-16

Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country,

and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.

Four Reasons for a Wake-Up Call:

1. Spiritual Slumber
2. Correction and Protection
3. Preparation for a New Season
4. Deepening Trust through Waiting

Why We Turn to Strangers for Help:

* Self-Sufficiency (Pride)
* Shame
* Secrecy

God sometimes withdraws protection and allows sin, Satan, and chaos to have their way.

Consequences for His Actions:

1. Wasted Life
2. Rock Bottom
3. The Parallel

Action Step:

Identify an area in your life where you are rebelling against God. What does that rebellion look like? Are you willing to surrender?