

A photograph of a lush green cornfield in the foreground, with a soft, hazy sunset sky in shades of pink, orange, and white in the background. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

# Short Stories - Epic Truths

**Summer 2018**



# Luke 15:11-32

*<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.*

# Luke 15:1-2

*<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable:*

- *Lost Sheep*
- *Lost Coin*

# Luke 15:11-32

*<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’*

## Luke 15:11-32

*So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.*

# Luke 15:11-32

*<sup>17</sup> “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’*

# Luke 15:11-32

*<sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.*

*“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*



# Luke 15:11-32

*21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’*

*22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.*

# Luke 15:11-32

*<sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’*

# Luke 15:11-32

*28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’*

# Luke 15:11-32

*<sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”*

## 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

*<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

# Who do we most identify with?

- *One who struggles to receive the down and outcast?*

# Who do we most identify with?

- *One who struggles to receive the down and outcast?*

*“If we are to win the world to Christ we must rise above our differences realizing that we have unity of purpose” Martin Luther King Jr.*

# Who do we most identify with?

- *One who struggles to receive the down and outcast?*
- *One who doesn't think there is enough grace for what you have done?*



# Who do we most identify with?

- *One who struggles to receive the down and outcast?*
- *One who doesn't think there is enough grace for what you have done?*
- *One who has rejected Gods offer of reconciliation altogether?*