

**LeMay Family and Friends.**  
**Bible Study**  
**Date: Tuesday – September 28, 2021.**  
**7pm - 8pm Eastern**

**Title: The Prodigal Son**

**Theme: Family Restoration**

**Format: (Virtual).**

**Study Outline:**

- 1) Read text and Scriptures.**
- 2) Read the short story.**
- 3) Discuss the text, supporting scriptures and the short story.**
- 4) Discuss questions.**
- 5) References.**

**Text: Luke 15:11-32**

<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<sup>[a]</sup> 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>[b]</sup> <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants,<sup>[c]</sup> ‘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.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

### **Supporting Scriptures:**

#### **Matthew 18:21, 22**

**21** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother who sins against me? Up to seven times?” **22** Jesus answered, “I tell you, not just seven times, but **seventy-seven times**.”

#### **1 Kings 18:44**

...<sup>43</sup>“Go and look toward the sea,” he said to his servant. So the servant went and looked, and he said, “There is nothing there.” Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.” <sup>44</sup> On the seventh time the servant reported, “There is a cloud as small as a man’s hand rising from the sea.” And Elijah replied, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.’”

### **1 Peter 5:9,10**

<sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in your faith and in the knowledge that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>[And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore you, secure you, strengthen you, and establish you.](#) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Format: (*Virtual*).**

#### **Study Outline:**

- 1) Read text and Scriptures.**
- 2) Review Images included.**
- 3) Read the short story.**
- 4) Discuss the text, supporting scriptures and the short story.**
- 5) Discuss questions.**

#### **Short Story:**

The other day I was watching an advertisement that was showing homeless teens on the street and soliciting help for them, throughout the broadcast. Then, the teenagers became infants, sitting on the ground where the teens were, at first. And then the broadcaster says, “how young do they have to be, before you help?”

I was completely captivated by this very effective add. The advertiser, solicitor had appealed to my stimulating a result in me, by using something more enticing to affect me. And this add got an effect. I was awestruck by the notion of babies sitting on a curb awaiting passers by, to assist.

Although I knew that the add was fictional, the point that they were making was that young people are on the streets and needing help. The flipping of the script with the babies, made the campaign even more successful.

Then I began to ponder why it took me seeing a little baby on a curb to get me to act. I wondered within my spirit why I'd been so slow in responding to an add that showed teens on the street. I went through the usual reservations. "It could all be just a spoof." "These are cons."

But either way, I knew that I didn't feel compelled until there was a deeper trigger, to make me. With that example in mind; I started to pen this lesson.

I began to ask myself; what is it about a desperate circumstance that would cause me act, when I wouldn't normally? Why wouldn't I respond to an add with teens depicted in poverty and as being destitute? Finally, I realized that I am, like many others in our society and the earth at large, simply desensitized to various stimuli around me.

And I also realized that my capacity to recognize patterns in my lover, I had been missing more often than not, of late. And I hadn't been listening to her, the way that I used to. As a result, I understood in that moment, that this was a big part of why we weren't together, at that moment.

So, I laid there and meditated on the epiphany that I'd just experienced. I knew that it was a rhema, and I knew that I was supposed to be feeling the way that I was to learn a very valuable lesson. As with all the invaluable lessons of life, that I'd learned, most of them I'd acquired through loss and pain. This one was going to be no different.

The deeper question that I had was why did I, and why do I always end up in the situations that I do, time after time. I know the latter question would take much more analysis and contemplation. But the first question would be easier to answer.

It was my sensitivity to and receptiveness to the deep things of God. My radar was off. My sensory was dull and I hadn't been listening to the signs that God, or my lover were giving me to get through this present darkness of separation, and to avoid it. I knew that I'd been giving an opportunity to learn more of him and to become stronger with my love.

But, in the moment when the rubber met the road, I failed to see the light. And I had, time and time again. I'd fallen for the oke' doke, again. I'd missed the mark, and totally ignored the voice of God, to avoid danger and to figure out quickly, how to get out of darkness.

In Peter's 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle, he advises the believer to expect that life isn't always going to be a bed of roses, and that we should allow God to take of the proverbial load off of our shoulders by, "casting our cares on him." This is easier said than done, when we're in the dilemma. How often do we forget about what we know, when we're in trouble, or weary, or depressed or in pain? How many times do let go of our troubles when we're in trouble and give it to God? And how many times have I needed to be shown how to be patient and to trust in the word of God, as Elijah's servant was being taught to, in the scripture reference.

God doesn't always just reveal to us, the outcome. He often wants allow us to learn from our mistakes. God knows that we're in trouble and he knows the answer already.

But the question becomes, why would God allow me to feel the pain and for how long is this lesson going to take for me to learn? Well, we do know. Who knows? Only God knows how long it will take to stay in a valley. And for me, the valley is separation.

So, verse 1 Pet 5:9, says we ought to cast our cares upon the Lord. And that the pain will cease at some point; a little while, he says. And then God himself will restore us. This is always the problem for me and I guess it is for most folk.

How long will have to go through this and how long will the pain go on? In my case, the self-inflicted traumas are the ones that I always want God to stop just for me, eel like to bail me out. But if I'm listening to voice of God, with my full attention, through the spirit, within the either, I will know how to relax and to process through the season of loss, pain, etc.

When I'm in tune with God, I'm functioning in flow. When in good graces with my love, I'm operating in harmony. When I'm broken and in need of restoration and healing, then God is ready to receive me. Not dissimilar to the son that Jesus references in his parable.

The young man has squandered all that he had, and was now in between a rock and a hard place. He was destitute and starving. He'd been used by those that he thought were his friends. He'd been the life of the party, but now his money was gone. So, he realizes what he needs to do, and that he has only one rational choice. And that is, to go home.

I wonder what it took to finally get the kid to come to his senses. Was it hunger? Was it pain? Was it deprivation? Was it loneliness? Was it shame? And what did he think would be the result of going back to his home?

At some point, the young man realizes that he has a friend and help, in his father. He knew that he could go home, and face the music. He knew that his father still loved him, no matter what he'd done. He knows that he was loved. And sure enough, on his journey home, his father was ready to receive him, elevate him and had been looking for his sons return.

The story blows me away, every time I review it. Because I'm reminded of God's unfailing love for me, and I equate it the kind of love that lover has for me. "Love is patient." "Love never fails." "Love will find a way, says Lionel."

But what if I'd been on the same mental plane as my lover to begin with? I'd likely not have fallen into darkness. And, I'd likely not misunderstood and or misinterpreted her actions, as being anything but an unfailing love for me. Just as God's is.

So, in the final analysis, I was asked, when did you know when to come back. And my response was, when I had a clue from you, that I could. The little voice, the little bird on my shoulder as some would say. For me, that is the voice of God, that I talk to, in my spirit to know what to do next.

I pray that I learn the easy way to always listen to the voice of God, and to my lady's. As hers is the physical manifestation given to me, for information and to see what God looks like. I pray that I won't be afraid or apprehensive, or stuck in ego or pride. To do what the Temptations say, "I ain't to proud to beg."

And I pray that I remember that God was waiting for me to come back, and so was my lady. I was just wasn't listening enough. Until somebody said to me in the spirit, "look again, and you see the light, you'll see that there is still love there"

### **Questions: A**

1. When you pray, how long is it before you feel peace about the matter?
2. Have you prayed recently, over a broken love relationship?
3. What does forgiveness mean to you?
4. At what point do you through in the towel?
5. Can people change?
6. Is it foolish to believe for something that seems, impossible?
7. How do you know you're in love?"
8. How do you know that you are hearing from God?"
9. What is meant by, "faith the size of a mustard seed?"
10. How long should we wait, in faith for a miracle to manifest?
11. Is love stranger than circumstances?
12. What is meant by the scripture, Romans. 8:28?
- 13) Why did Elijah tell his servant, to look again?
- 14) How do you know that you given enough time, prayer and meditation to an issue?

References: BBKing. I never make my move to soon.  
Maze and Frankie Beverly. Before I let go.

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