



Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Volume 3, Issue 18

Today's Word: prodigal

May 27, 2007

Lesson 18: "He Was Lost, and Is Found"

Are You:

- Saying Your Prayers Individually and as a Family?
- Lifting up in Prayer Those Who are Suffering, Lonely, and Lost?

Today's Scriptures

Luke 15, 17

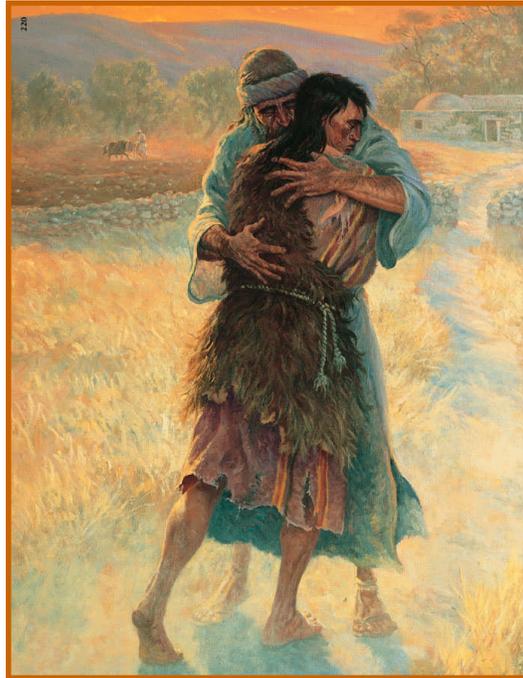
Next Week:

Lesson 19:

"Thy Faith Hath Saved Thee"

Luke 18:1-18, 35-43

Luke 19:1-10; John 11



Questions to Ponder

- What is our responsibility toward those who are lost?
- In what ways are we like the prodigal son?

Elder Carlos E. Assay:

"Do any members of the Church feel that they are unknown and uncared for? Have we turned our faces away from some whose lives appear less than Saintly?"

"As we seek to know and to understand those we should invite back into the main-stream of the Church, we might consider the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son.

"The lost sheep spoken of by the Savior could represent the member of the fold who strays from the path, following rather passively the enticements of the world. He may not do so with planned or malicious intent; he simply follows the crowd and melds into the group that shows him the greater interest. Usually, a lost sheep will respond to overtures of genuine love, concern, and proper fellowship.

"Perhaps the Savior used the parable of the lost coin to demonstrate that a valuable soul, like a piece of silver, may be lost through neglect. At times, leaders and teachers become neglectful, even offensive, and allow others to slip away. If this happens, and it can happen very easily, the responsible party should light the candle, sweep the floor, and do all within his power to recover the coin before it becomes

Of the parable of the prodigal son, President Gordon B. Hinckley said:

"I ask you to read that story. Every parent ought to read it again and again. It is large enough to encompass every household, and enough larger than that to encompass all mankind, for are we not all prodigal sons and daughters who need to repent and partake of the forgiving mercy of our Heavenly Father and then follow His example?"

encrusted with dust and is lost forever.

"The prodigal son may represent those who openly rebel against heaven and home. The prodigal is often one who feels he might know more than his elders, who wants to try his own wings in uncertain areas, or who stumbles and falls while walking the slippery path of youth. Those close by may not understand the exact reason for the rebellion. However, the prodigal's soul is of great worth and he should never be abandoned. Prayers, pleadings, persistent love, and the welcome mat at the door often win him back . . . We must understand and seek out the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. Whatever the reason for their loss or estrangement, their souls are of infinite worth; they are vital members of the body of Christ" ("Nurturing the Less Active," *Ensign*, Oct. 1986, 12.

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