

# the RETURN of the PRODIGAL SON MORE *than* a STORY

## to WHOM is JESUS SPEAKING

Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” *Luke 15:1-2*

## an UNACCEPTABLE LOSS,

## an ALL OUT SEARCH,

## and an EXTRAVAGANT CELEBRATION

Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” *Luke 15:3-7*

## a SECOND LOOK

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ <sup>10</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” *Luke 15:8-10*

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**NOTES** - The icons below may be helpful as you take notes on the outline.



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## DRIVING the POINT HOME

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.”

*Luke 15:11*

## WHAT’S in the PAINTING?

### *Light as the focus*

### *Stories within a story*

### *The author’s story within the painting*

### *Your story within the story*

***It is easy to see others in such a story,  
but healing and depth come  
when we see ourselves in each aspect of the story.***

## NEXT STEPS

*The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen

*Abba’s Child* by Brennan Manning

*Good and Beautiful God* by James Bryan Smith

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