

Lesson V. THE PRODIGAL SON—TEMPERANCE LESSON May 3, 1914

Luke 15 : 11-24. Study Luke 15 : 11-32—Memory Verses, 17-19.

Golden Text—I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight.—Luke 15 : 18 (Rev. Ver.).

11 And he said, A certain man had two sons :

12 And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to *me*. And he divided unto them *his* living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land ; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country ; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat : and no man gave unto him.

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger !

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son : make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him ; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet :

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it ; and let us eat, and be merry :

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again ; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In the Lesson we have another story which Jesus told. There was once a man, He said, who had two sons. The younger son said to his father, "Father, give me the share of your riches that belongs to me." Now it was the custom, amongst the Jews, that when a father died, his possessions were divided amongst his children so that the eldest son received twice as much as any of the others. Sometimes the division was made while the father was yet living. So the father in the story gave to each son his share of the money.

Not many days afterwards the younger son gathered all his wealth together. He said good by to his father. He turned his back to his father's house and started on a long journey to a far away country.

There the young man began to spend his money on pleasure. He went with evil friends. He bought costly clothes. He spent too much money for rich food. He did no work, but spent all his time in enjoyments.

By and by the young man's money was gone. At this same time there came a famine in the far country to which he had gone. He had no money to buy food. How he longed now for a little of the money he had wasted ! So long as his money lasted he had had plenty of friends with whom to spend it. But now that he was poor not one of these friends offered to help him.

He asked for work of one of the men who dwelt in the land. The man sent him into