

Lesson VII.

THE PRODIGAL SON

May 15, 1904

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

Golden Text—Come, and let us return unto the Lord.—Hosea 6: 1.

against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am
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 be-
gan to be merry.

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 jour-
ney 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 per-
ish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and
will say unto him, Father, I have sinned
no more worthy to be called thy son: make

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jesus once told the story of a rich father, who had two sons. One day, the youngest of them said, "Father, give me now the share of the property that would come to me if you were to die." So the father divided everything he had between his two sons.

When they had each received their portion, the eldest son went back to his work on the farm, where he looked after his father's business as faithfully as ever. But the younger son said to himself, "This kind of work is too slow, I'm going away where I can have a good time, and do just as I please." So, after a few days he packed up his things, and taking all his money with him, went far away into a strange country.

Here he fell in with bad companions, with whom he wasted his father's money in feasting and drinking. At last it was all gone, and one by one his companions left him. Worse than all, a famine now broke out; and having nothing to eat, the young man went and hired himself to a farmer, who gave him the lowest work about his place, sending him into the field to feed pigs. For days no one offered the poor slave anything to eat; so that he was driven to eat the empty bean-pods which he threw to the pigs.

Then, thinking of the comfortable living that his father's servants enjoyed, he said to himself, "I can stand this no longer; I will go home to my father and tell him how