

THE PARABOLIC TEACHING ABOUT CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Lesson 7: Two Sons, Two Debtors, and Another Two Sons

15-Point Chronological Discussion Outline & Worksheet • Dr. Dallas Willard Lecture Series (1983)

1. Why 'Good People' Miss God's Grace

[Audio ~00:00 – 03:45]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:28–32; Luke 18:9–14

Dallas Willard Insight: Respectable people often miss salvation because their self-righteousness blinds them to their deep inner rebellion.

Discussion Question: Why does self-righteous moralism prevent successful, respectable people from experiencing God's saving grace?

My Notes & Answer:

2. The Parable of the Two Sons

[Audio ~03:45 – 07:15]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:28–30; James 1:22

Dallas Willard Insight: One son refused verbally but repented and obeyed; the other promised obedience but did nothing. Actions define obedience.

Discussion Question: How does the story of the two sons illustrate that actions matter far more than polite words?

My Notes & Answer:

3. Repentance as Changing One's Mind

[Audio ~07:15 – 10:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:29, 32; Acts 26:20

Dallas Willard Insight: Repentance is regret followed by a fundamental change of heart and behavior, aligning the will with the Father.

Discussion Question: What does the first son's change of mind reveal about the true nature of biblical repentance?

My Notes & Answer:

4. Outcasts Entering Before Religious Elite

[Audio ~10:30 – 14:00]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:31–32; Luke 7:37–50

Dallas Willard Insight: Tax collectors and prostitutes entered the Kingdom first because their brokenness made them open to John's message.

Discussion Question: Why were societal outcasts more responsive to John and Jesus than the self-satisfied religious elite?

My Notes & Answer:

5. The Parable of the Two Debtors

[Audio ~14:00 – 17:30]

Scripture Focus: Luke 7:40–43; 1 John 4:19

Dallas Willard Insight: One debtor owed five hundred denarii, the other fifty; both were forgiven freely. Forgiveness unleashes passionate love.

Discussion Question: How does recognizing the magnitude of our forgiven debt ignite genuine, passionate love for Christ?

My Notes & Answer:

6. Loving Much Because Forgiven Much

[Audio ~17:30 – 21:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 7:44–47; 1 Tim. 1:15

Dallas Willard Insight: He who is forgiven little loves little; awareness of immense grace produces deep devotion and lavish gratitude.

Discussion Question: Why does a shallow sense of personal sin result in a cold, lukewarm love for God?

My Notes & Answer:

7. The Woman Anointing Jesus' Feet

[Audio ~21:00 – 24:30]

Scripture Focus: Luke 7:36–39; Mark 14:3–9

Dallas Willard Insight: The sinful woman expressed extravagant love through tears and perfume, while the Pharisee offered cold, stingy hospitality.

Discussion Question: How does the woman's lavish devotion contrast with the Pharisee's cold, critical, and stingy attitude?

My Notes & Answer:

8. The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Younger)

[Audio ~24:30 – 28:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 15:11–19; Romans 1:21–23

Dallas Willard Insight: The younger son demanded his inheritance, wasted it in wild living, and hit rock bottom before coming to his senses.

Discussion Question: What does the younger son's journey teach us about the destructive illusion of self-will and independence?

My Notes & Answer:

9. Coming to Himself in the Pigsty

[Audio ~28:00 – 31:30]

Scripture Focus: Luke 15:17–19; Psalm 51:17

Dallas Willard Insight: Total failure is often a mercy that shatters self-sufficiency, bringing us to our senses to return to the Father.

Discussion Question: How can hitting rock bottom serve as a divine mercy that awakens us to our true home?

My Notes & Answer:

10. The Father's Running Grace

[Audio ~31:30 – 35:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 15:20–24; Ephesians 2:4–5

Dallas Willard Insight: While the son was far off, the Father ran to embrace him, restoring him with a robe, ring, and joyful celebration.

Discussion Question: What does the Father running to embrace his repentant son reveal about God's heart toward sinners?

My Notes & Answer:

11. The Elder Brother's Resentment

[Audio ~35:00 – 38:30]

Scripture Focus: Luke 15:25–30; Jonah 4:1–3

Dallas Willard Insight: The elder son worked dutifully in the field but harbored anger, self-righteousness, and coldness toward his brother.

Discussion Question: How does the elder brother's anger reveal that one can live in the Father's house with an estranged heart?

My Notes & Answer:

12. Slaves vs. Sons in the Father's House

[Audio ~38:30 – 42:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 15:29; Galatians 4:7

Dallas Willard Insight: The elder son viewed relationship with his father as contractual slavery ('all these years I served you'), missing filial joy.

Discussion Question: How do we guard against viewing our relationship with God as transactional servitude rather than sonship?

My Notes & Answer:

13. The Father's Entreaty to the Self-Righteous

[Audio ~42:00 – 45:15]

Scripture Focus: Luke 15:31–32; Matthew 20:15

Dallas Willard Insight: The Father came outside to invite the elder brother in, demonstrating equal grace toward moralistic, critical hearts.

Discussion Question: How does the Father's gentle invitation to the elder brother show His love for self-righteous people?

My Notes & Answer:

14. The Danger of Moralistic Hypocrisy

[Audio ~45:15 – 47:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 23:25–28; Isaiah 29:13

Dallas Willard Insight: Outward moral compliance without inner love creates a bitter, judgmental spirit that excludes us from Kingdom joy.

Discussion Question: Why is inner bitterness and resentment just as spiritually lethal as outward rebellion and wild living?

My Notes & Answer:

15. Embracing the Joy of Forgiveness

[Audio ~47:30 – 50:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 15:32; Psalm 32:1–2

Dallas Willard Insight: Entering Kingdom life means abandoning self-righteous pride and celebrating the Father's boundless, restoring grace.

Discussion Question: How can we step into the Father's celebration and share His joy over every restored soul?

My Notes & Answer:
