

## Pastor Roy's Study Questions on Luke 15:11-32 (May 3 2026)

— *Below are questions to help further our understanding of Sundays Sermon.* —

1. Rembrandt painted the father with one firm hand and one tender hand on the prodigal son's back. Which aspect of God's embrace do you need most right now: strength or tenderness?
2. The sermon suggests many people identify with the younger son, but the real challenge is becoming like the father whose hands don't push away. What would it take for you to develop that kind of unconditional grace toward someone who has hurt you?
3. The younger son's journey mirrors humanity's repeated pattern of turning away from God even after witnessing miracles. What keeps people cycling back to the world instead of staying close to God?
4. The prodigal son hit rock bottom feeding pigs before he came to himself and repented. Why does God sometimes allow us to reach our lowest point before drawing us back to Him?
5. The father saw his son while he was still a long way off and ran to him. What does this tell us about God's posture toward those who are returning to Him, and how should that shape our own attitudes toward the broken?
6. The older brother stayed home and did everything right on paper, yet he couldn't enter the embrace because he was too proud to need it. In what ways might religious duty or moral performance actually keep us from experiencing God's grace?
7. The sermon states that the older brother could represent the religious leaders who grumbled about anything good that God did. How can we guard against becoming resentful when God shows mercy to people we think don't deserve it?
8. The prodigal son said he was no longer worthy to be called a son, yet the father immediately restored him with the best robe, ring, and shoes. What does this teach us about the difference between our self-assessment and God's view of us when we repent?
9. James 4 says to humble ourselves before the Lord and He will exalt us. How does the parable of the prodigal son illustrate that we don't earn our way back or clean ourselves up first?
10. The sermon concludes that our sin placed Christ on the cross, yet He went with utmost joy knowing the sacrifice was worth redeeming a lost soul. How should understanding the cost of our redemption change the way we live daily?