

Lost Through Carelessness – The Lost Sheep, Verses 3-7

- <u>Thoughtlessness</u>.
 - The figure of the shepherd, sheep and sheepfold found many times in the scriptures. Isaiah 53:6ff; John 10:1ff; Acts 20:28; etc.
 - Hebrews 2:1. cf. Matthew 9: 36, a picture of a multitude that had no real purpose in life.

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- <u>Absorption in other matters</u>.
 - Life. Luke 14:15ff

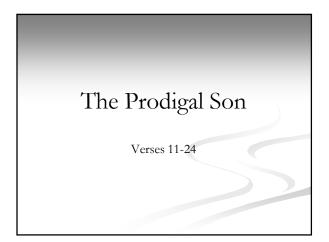
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Lack of knowledge, spiritual interest and diligence.

- "Give diligence" 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:11
- "Take heed" cf. 1 Corinthians 10:12; Hebrews 3:12
- Failure to do this means we are lost.
 cf. Hosea 4:6; Acts 17:30

Lost Through Uselessness – The Lost Coin. Verses 8-10

- This coin was of no value because it was "out of circulation."
 - Many have changed from useful vessels to into useless vessels, from vessels of honor to vessels of dishonor. (2 Timothy 2:20)
 - Uselessness means: loss of zeal for the Lord, loss of concern for others, and loss of influence. (Matthew 5:13-14)
 - The useless member is ... the one who has quit. (Luke 9:62)



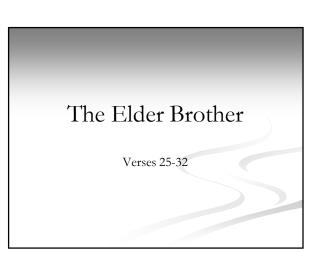
Lost Through Willfulness – The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24

- The Prodigal Son was lost willfully.
 - He willfully asked for his inheritance.
 - He willfully went into the far country.
 - He willfully wasted his substance with riotous living.

Lost Through Willfulness – The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24

The Prodigal Son was lost willfully.

- Exaltation of my will and a desecration of God's will. Romans 1:18ff; Hebrews 10:26ff
- Rebellion and defiance of authority. Absalom – 2 Samuel 15-18



Lost Through Bitterness – The Elder Brother. Verses 25-32

Self Commendation -

- He was never guilty of the immoralities of his brother.
 - He had stayed in his father's house.
 - He had served his father. "Lo, these many years do I serve thee."
 - Guilty of Pride, Arrogance, Self-righteous.

"I never transgressed a commandment, of thine."

Lost Through Bitterness – The Elder Brother. Verses 25-32

Self Commendation -

- Lost because of his wrong attitude toward his brother. "This THY son" not "This MY brother."
- He was angry, jealous and had no sympathy for his brother.
- The father recognizes the elder son's faithfulness ("you are always with me")
- He reassures the son that the remaining inheritance is his *("all that I have is yours")*

Lost Through Bitterness – The Elder Brother. Verses 25-32

- Bitterness to be put away. Ephesians 4:32ff
- Love for brethren is abundantly and plainly taught. John 13:34
- The elder brother represents the Pharisees and scribes (Luke 15:1) who stood condemned because they *"trusted in themselves that they were righteous; and set all others at nought" (Luke 18:9).*

The Lost

The Lost Sheep – Careless. Verses 3-7

The Lost Coin – Useless. Verses 8-10

The Prodigal Son – Willful. Verses 11-24

The Elder Brother – Bitter. Verses 25-32