

---

MasterClass #13  
**From Ruin to Redemption**

*Word*

**Scripture Reference**

Luke 15:11-32

**Discussion Questions**

1. “If you work hard enough, if you persevere, then from ruin you will find riches, restoration, and redemption.” Do you know of any ruin-to-redemption story? Tell the group about it.
2. Most ruin-to-redemption stories are based on human philosophy and are self-centered, but Scripture teaches us that the reason restoration and redemption is possible is because God is involved, whether or not the person who has been redeemed and restored acknowledges His hand or not. The Parable of the Prodigal Son is a ruin-to-redemption story and is one of the most familiar and loved of Jesus’ parables. It tells us of a son who asked his father to give him his future inheritance, then proceeds to waste it in reckless living until he had nothing left. Read Luke 15:11-32. From a biblical perspective, would you say either the father or the son was wrong in their actions—the son asking, the father giving (v. 11-13)? Why or why not? How are the father and younger son’s actions similar to how you interact with God? Are you being a responsible steward of what God has given you? If you are called to account for it today, how would you answer?
3. When the younger son had reached such a state of rock-bottom that even those around him did not want to give him animal food, he finally realized that he is not entitled to his father’s kindness, goodness, and estate(v. 14-19). Have you ever reached that rock bottom point that made you admit that God does not owe you anything? Or had you ever allowed someone (your child, friend, or family member) to experience the full-force of

the consequences of their actions so that they can realize the truth for themselves and come to their senses? Share and discuss.

4. Sometimes God allows people to hit rock bottom, and we have to let Him allow it so that people that we love (including ourselves) wakes up and realize that we are nothing apart from His grace. This parable gives us three reasons why God allows ruined lives to be redeemed:
  - a. **God’s compassion is evidenced in forgiveness (v. 20).** The passage does not say that the father looked for his son every day, but it describes to us that the father was overjoyed with his son’s return and has already forgiven his son even without yet knowing what his son did. God brings us from ruin to redemption not because of anything we did, but because He had compassion to forgive us of our sin (of wanting to live independently of Him) even before we asked, as demonstrated when Jesus Christ died in your place. Are you a recipient of God’s compassionate forgiveness? Share and discuss. Talk about what it means to be saved by Jesus Christ and how nothing you do will ever cause God to stop loving you (Romans ch. 8).
  - b. **You are God’s child (v. 21-24).** As the wayward son delivers his “I’m sorry” speech, the father responded by ordering his servants to prepare a big feast of the best meat to welcome his son who has returned. Similarly, the Heavenly Father wants what is best for us even if we do not deserve it, but simply because we are His children. If God’s discipline is for our own good, how does the fact that you are God’s child make you feel about the “unfairness” of being disciplined while others are not?
  - c. **God’s joy is in the lost returning (v. 25-32).** When the older brother, the good son who has been faithful, found out that his father is throwing a big welcome party for his wayward younger brother, the older brother was upset. He is angry that his father has never rewarded him for being a good son, while his father throws a party for a son who has wronged him. Note that the passage does not condemn the reaction of the older brother, but focuses instead on the father’s heart,

which is joy for a returning son who was lost, and assurance of rewards\* for the son who has always been good and faithful. Have you ever felt like the older brother, as if your years of quietly and faithfully serving does not merit recognition? How did you find encouragement to continue being faithful? How would you encourage a brother or sister in the faith who has a similar struggle?

*\*Listen to the sermon “Masterclass: A Well-Lived Life” for full context on heavenly rewards.*

### *Walk*

God’s joy is in lost children returning, but also found in faithful lives lived. You don’t have to live a wayward life to be able to share a compelling testimony to others. Your testimony of a life faithfully lived for Jesus is one of the greatest testimonies ever. So, Christian, what’s your story?

### *Worship & Prayer*

*Heavenly Father, thank You for the reminder that You are the God who forgives, for forgiving me without asking what I had done. Thank You that through Your Son Jesus Christ I can be called Your child forever. Thank You for the assurance that nothing I do will ever change how You see me: as Your precious child. Forgive me for the times I wandered away. I don’t deserve the joy You show at my return, but ask that You enable me to live a life that is true and faithful from this day forward. I humbly pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.*