

Outline for Lent4c, March 6, 2016 “**Boundless Love**” based on Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Teenager story.

- One of best known and best loved parables
- Problem: Jesus practice of associating with sinners and tax collectors. Pharisees and scribes complained

What does it show? A clear picture of what God is like.

- **Jesus shows us a Father who loves enough to let go.** Son bored, wants to experience ‘life’. God didn’t create robots, we’re free to determine own destiny. God has given amazing minds, remarkable bodies, and ability to develop relationships.
- **Jesus shows us a Father who patiently waits for us to decide.** In other parables the shepherd seeks lost, woman seeks coin, but in this the Father waits as son makes choices. Made many wrong, but finally ‘came to himself’. Is that repentance? First step in salvation.
- **Jesus show us a Father who accepts unconditionally.** Father had compassion, ‘ran’ to meet him, embraced him, robed him, feasted him.

Message for us!

- Elder son obeyed and stayed home, but was he any less a sinner in his inability to forgive and accept?
- We’re all sinners, even the Pharisees and scribes, even the righteous ones, even the church people.
- Story of young kid playing ball and forgiving mother – that’s grace.

Parable is open-ended – don’t know what happened to the 2 sons, but we do learn something about God and love!