Summary of the Lessons from the Prodigal Son
Luke 15

Characters
1. Father
2. Faithful son
3. Prodigal son

What is the main theme? “I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”

Who is the Father? Some experts say God and some say Christ. To me it does not really matter since they are one in purpose.

Lessons we can learn from the Father
1. He allowed a complete exercise of agency even though he knew it would painful for the Prodigal son. “And the younger said... Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he (the Father) divided unto them his living.”
2. He was perfectly just since he rewarded “all that he had” to the Faithful son for his long-term obedience. “Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.”
3. He was perfectly merciful since he watched continually for the Prodigal son and ran to him when he was yet a great way off. “But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.”
4. There are no limits on a Fathers love. (Robe, ring, shoes, fatted calf).

Who are the Sons? Both sons, in one way or another, represent all of us who are imperfect humans and who sin.

Lessons we can learn from the Prodigal son
1. While it is true that he engaged in riotous living, he learned the hard lesson that wickedness is not happiness.
2. Hard times forced him to a rock bottom moment when there was no place left to turn but his Father.
3. Bottoming out humbled him and he eventually “came to himself.”
4. He believed the lie of Satan that sin made him permanently unworthy to be considered a son in his family.

When are we like the Prodigal son?
When we make bad choices against light and knowledge “…wo unto him that has the law given, yea, that has all the commandments of God, like unto us, and that transgresseth them, and that wasteth the days of his probation, for awful is his state!” This does not refer to the end state but to the carnal condition into which one enters when making bad choices. Think about the people you know or have
known who struggle with addictions of any kind. Then look at the lessons we can learn above. They apply perfectly. It is important to note that when any prodigal comes to himself, he can receive forgiveness but he cannot undo the natural consequences of his actions. In the case of the Prodigal son, he had to live with the memory of his mistakes, the regret of having wasted time or of missing opportunities, his money was still gone… – and so forth.

Lessons we can learn from the Faithful son

1. Even the “righteous” sin and sometimes require rebuke. “…therefore came his father out, and entreated him… It was meet that we should make merry… for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.”

2. Anger and jealousy, like all other natural man emotions, will estrange you from the Father.

When are we like the Faithful son?
When we judge without all the facts and when we gossip about the misfortunes of others.