

# GOD'S PLAN VS. OUR PLAN

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Luke 15:11–19

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Luke 15 tells the story of 100 sheep and one that gets lost. The Bible goes on to talk about 10 coins and one that was lost. A little bit further into the chapter, we read about two sons, and one of them gets lost for a while. This chapter in the Bible shows God getting more personal as He talks about His love for us.

For the next few days, we're going to go deep into the story of the prodigal son. A prodigal is someone who spends money in a reckless, extravagant way and later makes a repentant return. If we think about the prodigal son, a number of words may come to mind: disrespect, impatience, lust, deception, unfaithfulness, selfishness, carelessness, and recklessness. We see someone whose selfish vision led to a sinking life.

The prodigal son had this thought that we often think as well: My plan is better than my father's plan. Sons and daughters may think this about their parents, and people can think that about God. My plan is better than my Father's plan.

We may someday face this fork in the road of our lives where we have to decide if God's plan is better than our plan. We can see ourselves standing there at the fork, wondering which way to go. Are we going to follow God's perfect plan for our lives, or are we going to follow our own plan and ask God to just bless it?

C. S. Lewis said, "We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us: we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be."\* Maybe the prodigal son did not want to stay with his father because he thought that being on his own would be more relaxing and more fun. Maybe he thought he wouldn't have to work so much and could enjoy life the easy way.

We always know in our hearts that God's plan is better, yet somehow, we do not always want to do things God's way. Sometimes, we just want to do what we want to do and hope that God is not paying attention to us.

God always has a plan for our lives. May we finally come to the realization that His plans are always better than our plans.

*For further study: Jeremiah 29:11*

*Additional references: Matthew 6:31–33, 1 Peter 1:3–4,*

*Proverbs 3:5–6*