

**Title:** "Empty Handed"

**Text:** Luke 15:11-19

**Target:** The prodigal spirit within us challenges daily the idea of whether or not the heavenly Father is able to fully satisfy your greatest longings. Today's message exposes the lie that happiness is found away from the Father and will give hope to the fact it is never too late to come home.

- I. **A Shocking Request:** (Luke 15:11-12)
  - a. **Dishonored him:** "give me" (Vs. 12)
  - b. **Demanded from him:** "the share of property" (Vs. 12)
  - c. **Disowned him:** "that is coming to me" (Vs. 12)
  
- II. **A Surprising Response:** "And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country" (Luke 15:12-13)
  - a. **Assigns Resources:** Divides amongst the two sons the **inheritance**.
  - b. **Accepts Rejection:** Viewed by the younger son as **irrelevant**.
  - c. **Applies NO Resistance:** No action by the father to **intervene**.
  - d. **Appears Reckless:** Original audience would have become **indignant**.

**Key Concept:** The heart of the father is revealed not only in what affords the younger son while in his **presence**, but what he is willing to endure for the son in his **absence**.

- III. **A Sobering Realization:** (Luke 15:13-16)
  - a. **Lives Senselessly:** "took a journey into a far country" (Vs. 13)
  - b. **Spends Wastefully:** "squandered his property" (Vs. 13)
  - c. **Acts Recklessly:** "in reckless living... And when he had spent everything"(Vs. 13-14)
  - d. **Reaps Misery:** "And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything." (Vs. 16)
  
- IV. **A Sensible Return:** "But when he came to himself..." (Vs. 17)
  - a. **His Discovery:** "he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread but I perish here with hunger!'" (Vs. 17)
    - I'm Empty...
    - I'm Exhausted...
    - I'm Enslaved...

**b. His Determination:** *“I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you” (Vs. 18)*

- I will arise...
- I will go...
- I will say...

**b. His Disbelief:** *“I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.” (Vs. 19)*

**Take Away:** Though you may have squandered it all, sitting in the pigpen of pain and shame; He calls you by name with these words that forever remain the same...son, daughter...I accept you, for I never rejected you, for I willing died for you, to save you, and now I forgive you. Come Home!