**The Father and Two Sons**

The Prodigal son parable is really about the dad. It is introduced as the kingdom of heaven is like a man who had two sons. This is a parable about the dad, a parable about the kingdom of heaven and about how the perfect Dad behaves.

But there is a further truth in all of this! This is a parable for leadership as to how to lead! The dad is willing to hand over, lock, stock and barrel half his possessions for his son to do with as he likes. The dad does not leave it in his will for him to have sometime in the future. No, the son has it NOW! So in ministry, how often does a gifted man keep going until he dies and then others have to take over? An inheritance ministry! It should be that once the father figure has reached a peak he willingly hands over to others the ministry. He is around to mentor but not to control. It is fully and completely handed over! This would be quite a challenge for the father figure to do. But it would bring about growth in a far more spectacular way. There will inevitably be some failures but they will more than be compensated for by the successes that are achieved. We are so scared of failure that we try to completely eliminate it from the situation. However, whilst we should not go out of our way to encourage failure, a child only grows through failure, they learn from their mistakes. Better to have the dad around to encourage when mistakes/failures happen than not to be there. Also, the new energy and life that others can bring ensures new growth and vitality in the church, in the kingdom of God.

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