

The Prodigal Son (a parable)

(Luke 15: 11 – 32)

Verse to memorize : (Luke 15: 7)

“There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent.”

The Story:

There was a man who had two sons. The younger asked his father to give him his share of the property, so he did. After few days he sold it, took the money and went to a country far away. There, he wasted his money enjoying himself and doing whatever he wanted.

Soon, he found that his money had all gone, as had his friends. Worse still, there was a severe famine in the land. He was in such a need, that he accepted to work for one of the citizens, looking after his pigs in the farm. He was so hungry, that he wished he could eat from the pigs' food, but was not given any.

At last, he came to his senses, and said to himself: “All my father’s hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am, about to starve. I will go to my father and say: Father, I have made a mistake, I do not deserve to be your son, but treat me as one of your hired workers.”

He was still a long way from home when his father saw him. His heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms round his son and kissed him. The son said: “I am sorry, I do not deserve to be your son.” The father wouldn’t let him continue. He ordered his servants to get the best robe, and shoes and a ring for his son, and to kill the calf they have been fattening up to have a party to celebrate.

When the elder son came back from the field, and knew what had happened, he was furious and would not go into the house. His father came out to talk to him. The son grumbled: “Look, all these years I have worked for you and obeyed you, yet you never gave me even a goat to have a feast with my friends. Now this son of yours, who has wasted all your money, comes home, and you kill the prize calf for him.” “My son” the father answered, “you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive, he was lost, but now he has been found.”



What do we learn from this parable :

- § God loves us to be with Him but He does not force us to do so: when the young son asked for his share, his father gave it to him and when he left the house he did not prevent him.
- § Some people think that if they leave Jesus, and live in a reckless way, doing whatever they want, they will enjoy life. They may do so for sometime, but later they regret it.
- § The young son did a mistake at first, by leaving his father’s house and leading a reckless life. But later, when he came to his senses, he realised what he had done, and decided to correct it by confessing and apologising to his father, who immediately accepted him.
- § The elder son did the right thing first, by staying with his father and obeying him. But later, he has mistaken by being jealous, angry and unloving to his brother.
- § We should do our best to do the right things always: at first and at the end.
- § We should always think very carefully before acting: if the young son had thought carefully, he wouldn’t have left his father and wasted his money. And if the elder son had thought carefully, he would have been happy that his brother came back.
- § Whatever we do, if we go back to Jesus, He is always there, waiting for us with open arms and a loving heart.