

## A/Our Father, His Prodigal and His Brother

Luke 15: 11-32

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all g. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, <sup>23</sup> ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>24</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>25</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

### Prodigal Son by Katrina Selby

Youngest son asked his father,  
for his inheritance.  
Going away to wild living,  
he spends every pence.  
Until for a living,  
he was giving,  
Pigs and hogs, not even peas but pods.  
With them he long to fill his belly,  
but Finally thought, I am being silly.  
I'm hungry lonely and tired.  
It would make more sense to go back to Dad, and try to  
get hired.  
So back he went, this time, quite Penitent.

Admitting he had sinned against his Dad, and God his  
Father  
He was probably surprised at the reaction of his  
brother.  
Reconciliation is what Fathers desire  
All the while providing what we need to get out of the  
mire.  
So ask God to your Father,  
To show you your heart,  
Accept forgiveness,  
And gain a fresh start.  
When we're like either of the two brothers,  
Let's bring joy to both our fathers and mothers  
And reconcile with God and man  
It's on His love that we can stand.

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Questions:

1. Why did the prodigal choose to leave his Father?
2. Have you made similar decisions in your life (rebellious from God), if so, what were they?
3. What role did your drug or alcohol use play in your relationship with or rebellion against God?
4. What did it take for the prodigal to "Come to his senses" and decide to return to his Father (who represents God)?
5. Has God used jail in your life in the same way the God used the prodigal's desperation to help him repent?
6. What were the circumstances that got you into jail, and can you see God's hand in that?
7. What has God shown you since you have come into jail.
8. In the prodigal, the son didn't think he was worthy to be restored as a son, what was God's response when he saw his son return?
9. What do you think God's response to you is when you choose to return to Him?
10. How are we/you like the prodigal son?
11. How are we/you like the older son?
12. How can we turn to the Father?
13. How can we stay with the Father?
14. How can we become like the Father?
15. What brought you to here?
16. What is God protecting you from while you are here?
17. How is God using this time in your life?
18. Can you think of an example where something was very difficult and God turned it into a good situation?

Isaiah 61 tells of the good things God wants to do for us and Luke 4 tells how Christ fulfilled those things. Below tells of the good things Christ has been appointed to do.

**Isaiah 61:1-11**

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
Because the LORD has anointed me  
To bring good news to the afflicted;  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to captives,  
And freedom to prisoners;  
To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD,  
And the day of vengeance of our God;  
To comfort all who mourn,  
To grant those who mourn *in Zion*,  
Giving them a garland instead of ashes,  
The oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting.  
So, they will be called oaks of righteousness,  
The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.  
Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins,  
They will raise up the former devastations,  
And they will repair the ruined cities,  
The desolations of many generations.  
And strangers will stand and pasture your flocks,  
And foreigners will be your farmers and your vinedressers.  
But you will be called the priests of the LORD;  
You will be spoken of *as* ministers of our God.  
You will eat the wealth of nations,  
And in their riches, you will boast.  
Instead of your shame *you will have a double portion*,  
And *instead of* humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion.  
Therefore, they will possess a double *portion* in their land,  
Everlasting joy will be theirs.

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For I, the LORD, love justice,  
I hate robbery in the burnt offering;  
And I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
And I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Then their offspring will be known among the nations,  
And their descendants in the midst of the peoples.  
All who see them will recognize them  
Because they are the offspring *whom* the LORD has blessed.  
I will rejoice greatly in the LORD,  
My soul will exult in my God;  
For He has clothed me with garments of salvation,  
He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness,  
As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
And as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up,  
So, the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
To spring up before all the nations.

**Luke 4: 18-21 Records when Christ fulfilled the prophecy from Isaiah 61**

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,  
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.  
HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES,  
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,  
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN,  
TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

And He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed upon Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."Includes NIV and NASB versions Further Study on God Uses Jail. doc 2

19. Identify the things in this scripture that you need Christ to do for you.
20. Pray for Him to do so.
21. Watch for these things and
22. Thank him ahead of time - and - as they happen.
23. When appropriate, share with others how He has done so.
24. What is the gospel or the good news? Are you poor enough or need it enough to be able to hear it? Will you accept Christ's sacrifice for your sins, His forgiveness and His power to change?
25. What are you captive to that you need to be released from?
26. Will you ask Him to show you your blind spots and bring Himself and His light and sight (He is the light of the World) to you and help rid you of the blind spots so you can see the truth?
27. What areas do you feel downtrodden in. How can you let Christ lift you up and free you in those areas?
28. The favorable year of the LORD is the atonement of Christ for our sins and our lives.