

"The Loving Father and Lost Sons!"

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:11-24

The stories of scripture inspire us to live in the story God is writing with our lives. God is willing to do whatever is necessary for you to experience His grace and love!

1. Every story of Jesus has a purpose.

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable.

Luke 15:2-3

a. To show God's extravagant love.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1

b. To understand God pursues His people.

We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

2. Jesus is our true older brother.

Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. V. 25

a. He rescued us.

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. Colossians 1:13

b. He shows up when we need Him most.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Romans 5:6

3. God's love is greater than our mistakes.

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Vv. 22-23

a. His grace is available.

Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

b. Jesus invites us to His party.

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