



## Day 1 - The RETURN of the Prodigal Son

In the parable of "the Prodigal Son." The story shows a picture of our own lives before God. There must come a time when each of us say, "I will go back to my Father and say to Him, I have sinned against you. Forgive me." God has accepted the death of Jesus on the cross on as full payment for all our sins.

What was the result of the Prodigal Son's decision to move away from his father? Have you ever experienced anything like that? What do you think motivated the Prodigal Son to change his mind and return to his father?

This parable is about our relationship with our Heavenly Father who loves us so much. God loves us so much more than any earthly father ever could. He loves us like a father and a mother combined! What was the Father's attitude when he saw his son walking down the path? What can we learn from this about God's love toward us?

There are basically 3 types of people in relation to the Father. Which one are you?

(1) RELUCTANT: I'm still in the far country living my life the way I want to

(2) REALIZED: I'm just now coming to my senses, realizing I need to turn to God

(3) RETURNED: I'm enjoying the Heavenly Father's forgiveness and acceptance

If you feel like you are #1 or #2, you need to come to God like the Prodigal Son - humbly asking forgiveness and mercy. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, God the Father will totally forgive us of our sins.

PRAY: Lord, we confess that we are all sinners and in need of forgiveness. Thank You, God, that You are a good Father who loves us very deeply. Thank You that You are willing to forgive us. Help us understand more about how to come to You in the way that pleases You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Go: Share this devotion with another person tomorrow and ask them which "type" are they.

### **Luke 15:11-24 NLT**

11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. 12 The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

13 "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. 14 About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. 15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

17 "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'"

20 "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

22 "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

This reading plan can be found at <https://my.bible.com/en-GB/reading-plans/721-making-your-faith-public>