

Think About It ...

1. Why do you think the son wanted to leave his father's house?

2. Why didn't the prodigal son's friends stay with him until he returned to his father?

3. What kind of job did the prodigal son have after he spent all the money he had?

4. Why did the prodigal son finally want to return to his father's house?

5. What did he say to his father when he returned?

6. How did his father welcome him when he repented and returned?

7. Does God punish sinners? _____
8. What does God want us to do when we sin?

9. In which book of the bible is the story of the prodigal Son?
(Who wrote the book?)

10. Who told the story of the prodigal son?

The Prodigal Son



*“Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,
and I am no longer worthy to be called your son.
Make me like one of your hired servants.”*

(Gospel of St. Luke 15:18-19)

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

(from the Gospel of Luke 15)

Jesus told a **parable** about **repentance** and **forgiveness**:

A rich man had two sons. One day the younger son said, “Father, give me my share of the wealth that the family has.” The father agreed.

The young son took what was given to him and traveled to a far away country. He started wasting his money, because he had a lot of money to spend. He entertained some new friends with the money.

But gradually, all the money was gone. And when the money was gone, his friends left him.

With no money, the son was left to beg for his food. But there was a famine in that country, so no one could give him any food.

Eventually, a farmer hired him to watch over his swine. The son was so hungry that even the animal food looked good to him.

As the son sat and watched the swine eat, he thought, “Why am I here, starving, with no money, when my father has servants who have better clothing and food than I do? **I am going to go back to my father and beg him to forgive me.** I will ask him if he will allow me to be one of his servants.”

So the son began the long journey back home. Soon he came into sight of his father’s land. The father had been waiting for his son to come back home since the day he left. He saw his son coming back home and he said, “He is here; my son who was lost is now found.”

He ran to meet his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said, “**Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.** I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

But the father was not angry. He had compassion on his son. With a heart overflowing with forgiveness and love, he said to his servants, “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, because **this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.**”

And they all celebrated the coming back of the prodigal son.

Understanding the Words

Parable – a story that is told in order to teach an important lesson

Prodigal – wasteful, an extravagant person

Swine – pigs

Compassion – kindness, overlooking someone’s mistakes or weakness

Repentance – being truly sorry for anything you have done that was not good, and trying harder to not make the same mistake again

Forgive – to pardon, to not be angry, to not punish.

When God forgives us for something we have done wrong and repented about, He “cancels” it, as if it had never happened, so that we can grow spiritually without worrying about any sins from our past.

The son, who took his share of inheritance and went to a far away place from his father, was left hungry because he was wasteful. Not only was he wrong in being wasteful, he was not wise to leave his father’s house.

We all make mistakes, but God is always ready to forgive us if we return, as the father had been waiting for the return of his son. But we must admit our mistakes (confess our sins), like the prodigal son did.

God is our Father in heaven. When we are sorry for our sins, we say to God the same words that the prodigal son said to his father: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.”

When we confess our sins, we are returning to God, His hands are always stretched out to receive us. That is why Jesus Christ said: “there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

The prodigal son wanted to become a servant in his father’s house. That is also the relationship we should want with God who is our Father. **When we obey God’s Commandments, we are His servants.**