

Thinking About the Lesson

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 last week or last month or any time in 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 to be wasteful, he was not wise to leave his father and his family.

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

God is our Father in heaven. When we are sorry for our sins, we might say to God the same words that the prodigal son said to his father:

“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.”

Like the father of the Prodigal Son, God’s hands are always stretched out to welcome us again when we admit our mistakes. 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.**

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 money that would be mine when you die.” The father agreed.

The young son took what was given to him and went to a far away country. He started wasting the money. He had parties for some new friends with the money.

Soon, he had spent all the money. And when the money was gone, his friends left him.

With no money, the son had to beg for food. But at that time in that country there was hardly any food, so no one could give him any food.

Then a farmer hired him to watch over his swine. (“Swine” are pigs.) The son was so hungry that even the pigs’ food looked good to him.

As the son sat and watched the pigs eat, he thought, “What am I doing 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 let me be one of his servants.”

So the son began the long journey back home. Soon he saw 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 some meat so we can eat 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

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.