

THE PRODIGAL SON'S FATHER

Luke 15:20-23

Introduction: All of us at one time or other, perhaps even now, have been in the situation the prodigal son was. The son decided to do things his own way, live his own life, do his own thing, so off he went. Of course he made a mess of things and finally came to his senses. He headed for home. Now, what was his dad doing all this time?

I. STILL A GOOD WAY FROM HOME SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED

1. From God's view point (which is the one that counts), Jesus tells what the boy's father was doing.
2. Have to give the boy some credit, he was going home, had a change of mind, heart, wanted to be back with his father and family.
 - He had to face up to the fact that he was in a mess, he had failed miserably.

II. HIS FATHER SAW HIM COMING

1. Unknown to the boy, his father had been watching for him every day.
 - God is watching us, expecting us to also "come home."
2. Every thought or motion that might bring you closer, nearer to God, God sees it.
3. To all, believer, unbeliever think for a moment:
 - Is it possible that there actually might be God out there somewhere?
 - Is it possible that this God has revealed Himself to people?
 - Would God really reveal Himself if asked to do so?
 - Have YOU ever asked Him to?
 - If not, would you ask Him right now to show Himself to you?
 - The prodigal son's father was waiting for his wayward son to come home
 - God is waiting for you in the same way.

III. HIS FATHER HAD COMPASSION AND RAN TO MEET HIS SON

1. Love creates compassion and forgiveness.
2. The story is told of a young man who stole from his partners. In regret he drowned himself. His father never got over his son's death.
3. God's heart is broken every time any of us sin.
4. God yearns for that sinner (us) to come home.

IV. WHAT DID THE FATHER DO?

1. Ran to his son and kissed him. He accepted the wayward son just as he was, all was instantly forgiven.
2. He called for family clothing to clothe his son. Christians are clothed in family clothing - Jesus Christ's righteousness.
3. He put a family ring on the boy's finger, signifying restoration to the family.
4. He had shoes put on the boy's feet indicating that the boy was family, not a slave or servant. Thus it is with the Christian, clothed, shod with the Gospel of peace, and member of God's family.

V. A FEAST WAS MADE IN CELEBRATION OF THE BOY'S RETURN

1. The father rejoiced that the son thought to be dead was alive and finally back home, safe and sound.
2. Story is told of an old man who met trains every day. Asked why he said that his son had gone away years ago but some day was coming back home, so every day he was looking for his son to come home. One day the son did.

CONCLUSION:

1. The heavenly Father waits, looks and years for His wayward children to come home.
2. Are you one of those wayward children? Have you gone away from God? He is waiting for you to come back.