

## The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32 ESV

<sup>11</sup> And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to<sup>[a]</sup> one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants,<sup>[c]</sup> 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Message: "The Extravagant Love of God"

By Rev. Shaw Okawara

The Parable of the Prodigal Son; Luke 15:11-32 ESV

This parable is about the heart of a father who loves his son extravagantly and longs for restoration. It's meant to resemble the heart of God and the way He sees us and wants to restore us as His beloved children.

- Do you view God as someone who's angry or someone who loves extravagantly?

God loves us extravagantly much more than we deserve. We see that in...

- Verses 11-12: Although the son showed total disrespect toward his father, the father does not punish the son. He didn't even force the son to stay. The father demonstrated generosity and gave the son freedom of choice, just as God does with us.
- Verse 20: The son hits rock bottom - it's a picture of what sin does to us. But that becomes his turning point and he returns to the father (act of repentance). The father runs to meet the son. God pursues us, just as the father ran to the son.
- Verses 21-22: The son was planning to work for the father to be accepted back home. God forgives us immediately when we return. We don't need to work to be accepted. There is nothing we could do to earn God's forgiveness.
- Verses 23-24: God lavishly celebrates our return. Just as the fattened calf was killed, Jesus sacrificed His life for our redemption.

The older son was angry and didn't join the celebration. Why? Because he thought he deserved to be rewarded and celebrated for his faithful service and obedience to the father.

- The older son represents the Pharisees who thought they deserved God's favor. No one deserves God's favor. God grants forgiveness and restoration freely to all those who believe in Christ simply because He loves us so extravagantly.

God loves you extravagantly.

- Have you received God's extravagant love?
- Do you need to reflect God's extravagant love toward someone else in your life?