

The Love of God – Luke 15:11-24

¹¹ Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to *his* father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to *me*.' So he divided to them *his* livelihood. ¹³ And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. ¹⁴ But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*.

¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."'

²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

Open: In what ways do people show love for one another?

→ What words in the passage need to be explained for you?

1. Write down the names of the various characters in this parable.
2. What does the younger son ask of his father? How does the father respond? (v. 12)
3. What does the son do with his money? (v. 13)
4. What does he do when the famine comes? (v. 14-16)
5. What decision does he make in v. 18? What is his reasoning for this decision? (v. 17)
6. How does he plan to approach his father? (vv. 18-19)
7. Describe the reunion between father and son. (vv. 20-21)
8. Once the son has returned, how does the father respond?

Apply

- How does the son show love to his father?
- How does the father show love to his son?
- How has God showed that he loves you?
- How do you show God that you love him?

Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not.

C S Lewis

