

*Who will have their honor restored?*

# The Father's Love



*A story told  
by Jesus Christ  
Luke 15:11-32*

Jesus Christ told many beautiful stories and parables.  
Perhaps *this* is the most famous:



*What made the younger son's demand  
so insulting and hurtful?*

There was a man  
who had two sons.  
The younger son said  
to his father,  
“Give me now the part  
of your property that  
I am supposed to  
receive someday.”

So the father divided his wealth between his two sons.

Not long after that, the younger son sold his share of the property and left home with the money. He traveled far away to another country.



*Why did the father agree to his request?*

*What will the son do in the far country?*



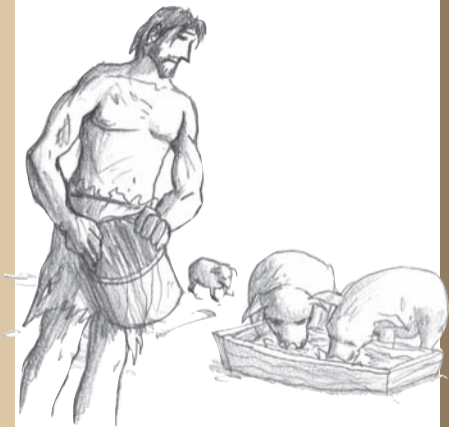
*Why were his actions so bad?*

There he wasted his money living like a fool.

After he spent everything he had, there was a terrible famine [lack of food] throughout the country. He was hungry and needed money.

So he went and got a job with one of the people who lived there.

The man sent him into the fields to feed pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything.



*How is he trying to stay alive?*

*What will the son do now?*



*Why did he finally gain humility?*

The son realized that he had been very foolish.

He thought,  
“All my father’s hired workers have plenty of food. But here I am, almost dead because I have nothing to eat.”

"I will leave and go to my father. I will say to him:

'Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But let me be like one of your hired workers.'"

*Is there a way out?*

*Go home and  
be a slave?*

*Steal the  
pigs?*

*Stay  
here?*

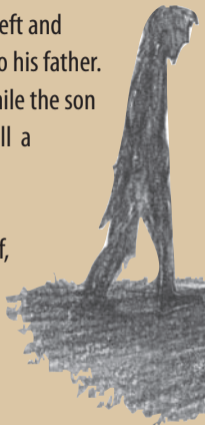


*When he gets home, what should his father do?*



*What does the son think that his father will do to him?*

So he left and  
went to his father.  
But while the son  
was still a  
long  
way  
off,





his father saw him coming and felt sorry for him. So he ran to him and hugged and kissed him.

*It was a big shame on the father to run to his son!*



*As the neighbors were watching, how did the father protect his son from being shamed?*

*What are the neighbors thinking?*



*What does the younger son need?*

The son said,  
“Father, I have sinned  
against God and have  
done wrong to you.  
I am no longer worthy to  
be called your son.”

But the father called to his servants, "Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and good sandals on his feet. And bring our best calf and kill it so that we can celebrate with plenty to eat."



*The father called for a big party to honor his younger son. Why?*



*The father's party for his son would have surprised the people in the village. Why?*

“My son was dead,  
but now he is alive again!

He was lost,  
but now he is found!”

So they began to  
have a party.

The older son had  
been out in the field.  
When he came near the  
house, he heard the sound  
of music and dancing.

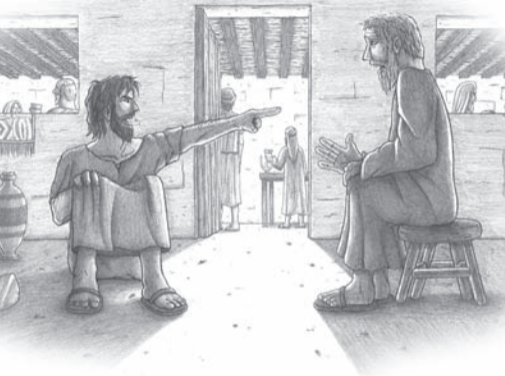
So he called to one of the servant boys and asked, "What does all this mean?" The boy said, "Your brother has come back, and your father killed the best calf to eat. He is happy because he has his son back safe and sound."

But the older son was angry.



*Why was the older son angry?*

*What will the older son do next?*



*How did the older son insult his father?*

He would not go in  
to the party.  
So his father went out and  
begged him to come in.  
But he said to his father,  
“Look, for all these years  
I have worked like a slave  
for you. I have always done  
what you told me to do,  
and you never gave me  
even a young goat for a  
party with my friends.

“But then this son of yours comes home after wasting your money on prostitutes, and you kill the best calf for him!”

His father said to him, “Oh, my son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But this was a day to be happy and celebrate. Your brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found.”

*It was a big shame on the father to have to leave the party.*

*But he talked in a gentle way with his son.*



*What kind of father is he?*

*How did both sons dishonor the father?*



YOUNGER SON

## Rebellious Sinner

He insulted his father by rejection, greed, and **foolish actions**.

He was **lost in a far-away land**. Later, he returned in **humility and sorrow**.

Turning from his dirty sin and shame, he **humbled himself** before his father.

He **received the father's love**; his shame was covered, his honor restored.

He **entered into** the father's house for the great party.



OLDER SON

## Religious Sinner

He insulted his father by **hating the forgiveness** given to his brother.

He was **lost at home**. He never left his father, but he was **full of ugly pride**.

Thinking he had no sin and shame, he **argued**, and **accused** his father.

He **never knew** the greatness of the **father's love** and mercy.

He **stayed outside** the father's house during the great party.

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**Jesus said**, "I tell you, it will be the same in heaven. There will be great joy when one sinner turns away from sin. Yes, there will be more joy than for 99 godly people who do not need to turn away from their sins." *(Luke 15:7 NIRV)*

*How did the father show suffering love to both his younger son and older son?*



*The father was dishonored and hurt by both sons. But because of love for both sons, the father suffered shame to heal his relationship with them.*

**Jesus is teaching: God is like a father willing to suffer shame for us.**

Rebellious  
Sinner



As humans, we ALL have sinned,

Religious  
Sinner



insulting our glorious Creator God. And,  
“When people sin, they earn what sin pays—  
death...” (Romans 6:23). Still, He loves us

**so much, that He suffers to cover our shame and give us His honor!**

*How can it be,* that because of love, Almighty God would suffer to cover *our sin and shame* and give us *His righteousness and honor?*

**Is there a way, today,** to have the honor of joining God’s great family—  
and know for sure the honor of entering heaven’s great party?

“Jesus answered,  
**‘I am the way,**  
and the **truth,**  
and the **life.**”

The only way to the  
Father is through me.”

*(John 14:6)*

**JESUS CHRIST** was perfect, pure, holy. But He died in public at the hands of sinful men. The Bible says that Jesus was shamed, nailed to a wooden cross. After He died, His body was put in a tomb. *But three days later, God raised Him from death in highest honor!*

**JESUS DEFEATED SIN, SHAME, DEATH.**

He died on the cross, suffering shame for all peoples. But in rising from death, *Jesus defeated sin and shame for us.* And when we believe in Jesus, following Him day by day, we can truly live in victory over sin and shame!

**GLORIOUS LOVE.** “But Christ died for us while we were still sinners, and by this God showed how much He loves us.”

*(Romans 5:8)*



**“The Father has loved us so much!** This shows how much He loved us: We are called children of God.” (1 John 3:1) “Some people did accept Him [Jesus]. They believed in Him, and He gave them the right [honor] to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

Jesus said, “Anyone who hears what I say and believes in the one who sent Me has eternal life. They will not be judged guilty . . . and have entered into life.” (John 5:24)

“If you openly say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from death, you will be saved. . . . Yes, the Scriptures say, **‘Everyone who trusts in Him will not be put to shame.’**” (Romans 10:9-11)

**Do you want victory over sin and shame? The honor of being a child of God? To have eternal life? Turn from your sin and follow Jesus. Pray honestly:**

“Jesus, You know all the ways I have insulted the honor, love, and holiness of God. I am sorry. I deeply desire an honor that never goes away—the honor of being one of God’s children. Jesus, I believe that because of love, You suffered to bear our sin and shame, so we could bear God’s honor and join God’s family. You invite us to join You in heaven’s great party. Oh yes, I want to be there. I believe you rose from death to defeat sin, shame, and death. Please save me from all my sin and shame, with Your eternal life. **Lord Jesus, I believe in You. Amen.**”

***Was Jesus Christ rewarded for His suffering love—  
bearing the shame of humanity and conquering death? YES!***

“So God raised Him up to the most important place and gave Him the name that is greater than any other name. God did this so that every person will bow down to honor the name of Jesus. Everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will bow. They will all confess, ‘Jesus Christ is Lord,’ and this will bring glory to God the Father.” *(Philippians 2:9–11)*

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**Do you have questions? Do you want to grow with others  
in the honor of following Jesus? Please contact:**