

# THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON (& THE PRODIGAL CHURCH?)

## LUKE 15:11-32 (CEB)

### The Great Escape

**11** Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons.

**12** The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between **THEM**.

**13** Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away.

### The Great Wasting Away

**13b** There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

**14** "When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need.

**15** He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.

**16** He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything.

### **The Great Awakening**

**17** When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death!

**18** I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

**19** I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands."

### **The Great Homecoming**

**20** So he got up and went to his father. "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him.

**21** Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

**22** But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet!

**23** Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting

**24** because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

## **The Great Travesty**

**25** “Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing.

**26** He called one of the servants and asked what was going on.

**27** The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’

**28** Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him.

**29** He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.’

**30** But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’

## **The Great Reality**

**31** Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.’

**32** But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”