



Shine

27TH MARCH 2022

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SCRIPTURE
LUKE 15:11-32



Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So, he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So, he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So, they began to celebrate.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So, his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never

disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!

“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Reflection

Our God is a loving father, and he wants the best for us, no matter how far away we can stray from him. This is an important gospel to listen to. It really shows how far God will go to, to make sure we are safe and in His arms.

We know that Jesus welcomed everyone, tax collectors, widows, the poor and sick. It reminds us that while we are all sinners, Jesus still welcomes us too. We are not perfect and sometimes we mess up, but that’s where the love of God shines through.

God will always come back to find those who are lost. He searches for them, finds them, comforts them, and heals them. There is no other love quite like God’s.

CHALLENGE

Put the moral of this parable into practise this week by trying to make things right with someone who you might have had a disagreement with.

Think about the forgiveness that the father had for his son and the love that welcomed him home.

Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for searching for me when I’m lost and far away from you.
Help me love other people and give me the courage to forgive people who may have done wrong to me.
Amen.

ACTIVITY

Make a Maze

Create your own maze to represent the son's journey back to the father.

You could draw one on paper and draw some pictures of key parts of the parable.

Or why not make a 3D creation? You could use cardboard, straws or whatever else you can find!

