



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

This week, three Sundays before the beginning of Great Lent, we consider the parable of the prodigal son as told by Jesus in Luke 15:11-32. The previous two Sundays (Zacchaeus, the Publican and the Pharisee) we have learned that we should examine ourselves and repent of our sins, and we should not fall into the trap of thinking more highly of ourselves than others. Today we remember how God longs for our return to Him and how He joyously runs to meet us, even after we have committed, not only many grievous sins, but even betrayed Him to His very heart as a father.

The parable describes two sons of a rich man—the older, who is very loyal, obedient and faithful, and the younger, who foolishly asks for his inheritance early, then runs away and spends it all on “reckless living.” Soon all the younger son’s money is gone, and with it all his party friends. He soon finds himself literally living with pigs. He reasons that if he goes home ashamed and a disappointment to his father, that at least he will not starve. He never dreamed that his father would run to meet him, but would also order that the fatted calf be killed for a great celebration, and that he would restore him to full son ship.

The elder faithful son becomes hurt and asks his father if he does not remember that he has been faithful all along and that a feast was never thrown in his honor. The father turns to him with great love and compassion and says, “31 ... ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’” (Holy Bible ESV)

This Sunday, whether you find yourself more like the prodigal son, or more like the faithful son, know that the Father loves you and wants His relationship with you to be whole. This Sunday, strive to allow your heart to come home to God, your Heavenly Father. Allow yourself, no matter where you have been, or what you have done, to accept God’s love and forgiveness. Begin today to let Him restore you to your full place in His Kingdom through Christ Jesus our Lord!