

*Luke 15:20 (NIV)*

“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 story of the prodigal son reveals a vivid picture of God’s immense mercy and compassion toward us. After the younger son lost everything living a life of indulgence, he finally decided to return to his father—though with heavy thoughts of being blamed, rejected, or even punished and made a servant. But things turned out to be very different from what he expected... and much better.

Before the son even reached his father, the father had already seen him from afar. Not only that, but the father didn’t wait for his son to come all the way; he ran to meet him.

This is remarkable because, according to traditional culture—then and now—grown men don’t usually run unless there’s an emergency or an overwhelming emotional reason. Adults simply

don't run without cause.

But this father broke that rule. He ran toward his son just like a small child would, and when he reached him, he embraced and kissed him tenderly. You can imagine the intense emotions the father had for his son.

It's easy to picture a parent welcoming back a child they love who has been away for a long time. But it's not so easy to see a parent welcome a wayward, proud, and failed child with such overwhelming love—especially after the son had been disrespected, lost his honor, and squandered everything.

This story reveals God's heart for a sinner who genuinely repents.

Even before you finish asking to be forgiven, God has already run to you and embraced you. His grace to forgive far surpasses the number of sins we have committed.

Maybe you've been a prodigal child, returning to sins you had once left behind. What if you repented today in a meaningful way?

You left your marriage repent now.

You returned to adultery and disgrace repent now.

You went back to drunkenness and indulgence repent now.

God is ready to run to you and forgive you beyond your greatest expectations.

He will also help you. Just as the prodigal son “came to his senses,” you too can come to your senses today and leave behind your old life. No matter how many shameful mistakes you have made, just repent today. Throw away the curses of witchcraft, laziness, theft, and corruption that you have been practicing—and the Lord will heal you.

Remember, dying in your sins leads straight to hell. Why should it be that way when the One who forgives runs toward you?

Don't hold Him back. Open your heart and return to your Creator.

The Lord bless you.

Shalom.

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