

# **Title: The Prodigal Father**

**Key text:** *Luke 15:11-24*

Truth is the most valuable thing in the world.

It was **Winston Churchill** who said, “*Truth is the most valuable thing in the world. It is so valuable that oftentimes it is protected by a bodyguard of lies.*”

Truth empowers people to live a life that is free from fear and doubts. It allows us to live with purpose. It allows us to hit the mark and reach our God-given destiny.

**Knowing the truth is the ultimate goal in life.**

**Our mission in life is to know the truth about God, our Father.**

**How much do we know our father?**

Research shows that fathers have a significant and positive impact on their children’s cognitive and social development.

In an article entitled ***Fatherless America***, David Blankenhorn calls the crisis of fatherless children “*the most destructive trend of our generation*”.

All truth is parallel. Whatever happens in the natural also happens in the spiritual.

As children of God, not knowing our father will also have an adverse effect in our spiritual life.

How much do we know Him as our Father?

**John 8:32** - *We will know the truth and the truth will set us free.*

The more we spend time with the Father, the deeper our relationship would be. The deeper our relationship with the Father, the more we know the truth about our Father, and the more we know Him, the more liberating it is for us.

The truth of knowing our Father empowers us to live a life that is free from fear and doubts and it allows us to live with purpose. It allows us to hit the mark and reach our God-given destiny.

Regardless of our past experiences with our earthly fathers, we have available to us a relationship with our Heavenly Father — God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

**Luke 15:11-24** talks about the *“Parable of the Lost Son”* or the *“Parable of the Prodigal Son”*.

The biggest question is who is the real prodigal in the story? The son or the father?

Over the years the word *prodigal* has lost its true meaning. The word *prodigal* comes from the Latin word '*prodigus*' which means – **extravagant, lavishly and extremely generous.**

Understanding it's true and original meaning, we know that it is not the son but the father who expressed His extravagant and extreme generosity to his son.

**How did the prodigal father show his extravagant and extreme generosity to his sons?**

**For the younger son...**

- Though undeserving, he gave to his son his cut. He gave his resources generously to him.
- His love for his son has not changed although he knew that it may be the last time, he would see his son.
- From the time his son left, he intensified his prayer life. His love and concern for him kept growing.
- Each day, he would sit near the window hoping it would be the day that he would return.

- He didn't lose hope believing that he was getting closer to the day of seeing his son again.
- That most anticipated day came, *while the son was still a great way off, the father saw him and had compassion on his lost son (v20).*

The literal meaning of the word **compassion is to suffer together**. It was not only the son that suffered but the father suffered with him. He was always on the father's mind.

- Out of His pure love and extravagant, generous heart, he asked for...the best ***robe*** to be put on him (**symbol of authority as his son**), a ***ring*** on his finger (**symbol of his pure and endless love**), and ***sandals*** on his feet (**a symbol that he is clean; a gesture that his sins were forgiven**).

The older son, after hearing that his young brother was back and how his father received him with music and dancing, was very indignant.

**But how did the father respond to his older son...**

- *He came to his son and pleaded with him (v28).* He did not use his authority as a father, he did not lord over him but pleaded with him.

**To plead means *to make a statement of what you believe is true.***

- We are talking about the prodigal father, who was **extravagant, lavishly and extremely generous**. What is remarkable and unveiling in this story was what he said to his older son in verse 31, “**Son, you are always with me and all that I have is yours**”.

**How did God, our Father, express His generosity and extravagant love to us, His children? He showed His extravagant love to us...**

**1. By creating a wonderful, a grand plan in our life**  
God’s plan in our life is far bigger and greater than ours.

Read *1 Cor. 2:9; Ps 139:13-16; Jer. 29:11*

**2. By giving us everything we need**

God has given us all things we need pertaining to this life and godliness.

Read *Eph. 1:17-19; 2 Pet. 1:3 & Col. 2:10*

**3. By giving us His very best – His only Son.**

Christ has become the propitiation for our sins.

Read *Romans 8:32 & 1 Jn 4:9-10*