

## *Back to the Father's House*

*"11 Jesus continued: 'There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 '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. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 'When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 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. 21 'The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 '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. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate." (Luke 15:11-24)*

Why do you choose to live away from God? Why don't you come back to the Father's house? Why do you like to suffer and live a miserable life? Do you wish to always be in need? In the parable that Jesus told, the younger son took his inheritance, went away and squandered all what he received from his father. When famine came in the land he experienced to live in desperate need. He became a servant yet there is not even enough food to fill his stomach. All these unfavorable circumstances made the younger son to come back to his senses and decided to return back to his father. Again he was welcome by his father with feast and celebration. He was clothed by his father and again live a peaceful life as a son in his father's house.

If you are living away from God the Father in heaven, like the younger son, you have gone astray. You have been separated from God because of sin. But God Himself has made a way for you to go back to Him. The Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven to reconcile you back to God the Father. Jesus Christ took all the sins of the world and He paid the price for all the wrongdoings when He died on the cross; He was buried and raised on the third day to give eternal life to everyone who believes in Him. Believing in Jesus and receiving Him as a personal Lord and Savior is the way back to the Father's house. ***"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation."*** (Colossians 1:21-22) As you receive Jesus in your heart you receive eternal life and you enter a life to the full – living under the care of God the Father. Like the younger son who was welcomed by his father; the Father God in heaven welcomes those who come back to Him through Jesus Christ. While God's love overshadows His children He also clothes them with His blessings:

1) **The robe of righteousness:** Jesus Christ cleanses you from sin and justifies you in front of God the Father. You are no longer condemned as sinner but you are made righteous by the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross. The blood of Jesus cleanses you and purifies you from all sins and He presents you to God blameless and without guilt. ***"Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered."*** (Romans 4:7) So you live at peace with God by wearing the robe of righteousness through believing and receiving Jesus as personal Savior and Lord

2) **The ring of authority:** Ring is the sign of authority in the ancient time. The signet ring or the seal in the ring belongs only to the king that symbolizes his authority and approval. A seal or a mark also represents ownership. Everything that has seal belongs to the person who owns the seal. God is the Creator of heaven and Earth, and everything belongs to Him. When you receive and accept Jesus as personal Savior and Lord you become a child of God as the Bible says: ***"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave him the right to become children of God."*** (John 1:12) And when you become a child of God you belong to God's family. Being a child of God you become co-heirs with Christ. You inherit all whatever belongs to God the Father. He also gives you the authority to trample down the evil forces in this world – to drive out demons and heal the sick. Jesus said, ***"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."*** (Luke 10:19)

3) **Sandals of joy and peace:** Bare feet in the ancient times represents mourning. Those who mourn and those who go into deep troubles they don't wear their sandals. Before you come to know and accept Jesus, your life is full of sorrow, troubles, and pain. Without Jesus you are full of fear – fear of sickness and diseases, fear for the future, fear of death, etc. But when you go back to God your tears are wiped away for He fills your heart with joy, with hope, with assurance and peace. He comforts you and He assures you that He is with you all the time. Being with God brings great peace because you have the confidence that God is your strength, your provider, your refuge, your banner and your deliverer in times of need. So you always have the reason to rejoice

***My dear and beloved:*** King David said: ***"Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. For the Lord is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good things does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless."*** (Psalm 84: 10-11) Living away or far from God brings you tears and grief. You miss the true meaning of life and the life to the full that Jesus has promised to those who believe in Him. If this message has encouraged you to come back to the Father's house, say this prayer with a sincere heart:

***My Prayer:*** *"Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus. I thank You for the eternal life that Jesus offers to me by His death on the cross. O Lord, forgive me my sins, I am coming back to you. Lord Jesus, I invite you to be the Lord over my life. Clothe me with your power and love. Take my hand, guide me in your ways and lead me toward eternity. Thank You, Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen."*