

## **luke 15: 11-24 (inclusive version)**

then jesus said, “there was once a man who had two sons. the younger said to his father, ‘father, i want right now what’s coming to me.’ so the father divided the property between them. it wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. there, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. after he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. he signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. he was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

that brought him to his senses. he said, ‘all those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here i am starving to death. i’m going back to my father. i’ll say to him, father, i’ve sinned against god, i’ve sinned before you; i don’t deserve to be called your son. take me on as a hired hand.’ he got right up and went home to his father.

“when he was still a long way off, his father saw him. his heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. the son started his speech: ‘father, live sinned against god, i’ve sinned before you; i don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“but the father wasn’t listening. he was calling to the servants, ‘quick. bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. we’re going to feast! we’re going to have a wonderful time! my son is here—given up for dead and now alive! and they began to have a wonderful time.