



November 11, 2012

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¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.

¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and

kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’

³¹ And he said to him, ‘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.’ ” Luke 15:11-32 (ESV)

Not Many Days Later

A Journey to a Far Country

- Become _____ from our Father

But Jonah got up and went the other direction to Tarshish, running away from GOD. He went down to the port of Joppa and found a ship headed for Tarshish. He paid the fare and went on board, joining those going to Tarshish—as far away from GOD as he could get. Jonah 1:3 (MSG)

- Lose _____ for our inheritance
...there he squandered his property.... (vs. 13)

From childhood we have watched as everything our ancestors worked for— their flocks and herds, their sons and daughters— was squandered on a delusion. Jeremiah 3:24 (NLT)

- Live for _____
... in reckless living.... (vs 13)

² You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. ³ We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Ephesians 2:2-3 (MSG)

A Severe Famine

And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country (vs 14)

- _____
You say, 'I'm rich. I'm wealthy. I don't need anything.' Yet, you do not realize that you are miserable, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. Revelation 3:17 (GW)

- _____
⁴⁷ The LORD blessed you in every way, but you would

not serve him with glad and joyful hearts. ⁴⁸ So then, you will serve the enemies that the LORD is going to send against you. You will be hungry, thirsty, and naked—in need of everything. Deuteronomy 28:47-48a (TEV)

- _____
²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind and to things that should not be done.... ³² They know God's decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die—yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them. Romans 1:28, 32 (NRSV)

He Came to His Senses

- Recognize your _____
- Desire the Father's _____
- Admit your _____ choices
- Take the _____ home

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Become a child of God by responding to His offer of forgiveness and life.
- Examine my life to see if there is anyplace that I have wandered from God and then confess it to Him and head back to Him.
- Admit that I am in a “severe famine” and yet I am resisting doing the very thing I know I should. Pray for me.
- Meditate on and/or memorize Romans 1:28