

# THE PRODIGAL SON

See Luke 15:11-24

I'm what matters. I don't care about my family.  
Dad's rich enough to give me my share of his wealth right now.  
Why should I have to wait until he's dead?  
If he really loved me he'd give me my share right now.  
I've got far better ways of using it.  
What's the good of having money if you don't spend it!

I'm rich beyond my dreams.  
I never thought he'd say, "Yes."  
I don't need him now, or his old-fashioned values,  
He can take care of himself. Times have changed.  
I'm off to enjoy myself, away from family ties and false restrictions!  
Freedom!

Life is so pleasantly exhausting! I've got that many friends! I can buy anything I want, do anything I want.  
There's nothing I haven't done or tried. I'm more popular than the king. Why didn't I do this sooner?

*What do you mean the money's all gone!  
How much do I owe!*

I've had to sell what little I had left.  
My sandals. The very shirt of my back.  
All my worldly possessions.  
Why is there nothing left? Where are my friends?  
What have I done?

Hunger and guilt both tie me up like Gordian's knot.  
Back home they'd laugh at me now.  
Back home they'd be well fed!  
Even the servants.  
And I his son!!

How could I have been such a fool!  
Dear Dad. I have lost the right to call you Father.  
My sense of wealth imprisoned me and I knew it not.  
I would be content just to be with you as a servant.  
Can you ever forgive me?

I must return from this foreign land, and seek his mercy.

Each step back towards home is both painful and joyous.  
I want to run, feel his arms around me again.  
But I am scared. I won't be able to look him in the eye.  
I am not worthy.

**I look up and see someone running towards me.  
His arms are outstretched.  
He is calling: "My son! My son!"  
I feel his love before he reaches me.  
He hugs me tight. "I have always loved you, and always will-  
Welcome, welcome home!"**

**I can now wear the family robe and ring,  
But their wealth is small compared to this awesome lesson:  
Love is unconditional.  
My Father had never left me, - I had left him.**

**I have learnt the meaning of Love.  
I have all I need and so much more.  
I now know *true* freedom, -  
and rejoice!**