

The Boy  
Who  
Came Back  
From The Dead



**“...For this my son was dead, and is  
alive again; he was lost, and is found.  
And they began to be merry”  
(Luke 15:24).**

In Luke chapter 15, Jesus told this story as part of a parable (a story with a **hidden** meaning).

There was a man who had two sons. He loved them very dearly. One day the younger son came with a request that made his father **very, very sad**. He wanted his inheritance and he wanted to separate from his father and leave home.

This was a terrible blow to his father, but it seems to me that this father understood that this son never learnt much from others, no matter how they tried to teach him. He only learnt the hard way, by **bitter experience**.

Sadly, this father had to let this younger son go. The son just would not listen. Soon, he was gone. He had **separated** himself from his dad.

My friend, this is one sense in which the bible speaks of being **dead**. When one is separated from God by a life of self-will and sin, God sees him as **dead**. The bible describes sinners as being “**dead in [their] sins**” (Col 2:13).

This son was having what he **thought** was a wonderful time. What he did not know is that this world’s delights are called “**the temporary pleasure of sin**” Heb 11: 25. Quickly, the money ran out and poverty kicked in.

At length, he began to face grim **reality**. He was alone. He was penniless, hungry, sad and home-sick. Yes, dear reader, a life of sin is a life full of many problems. God says that “**many sorrows shall be to the wicked**” (Psa 32:10).

Now there was only one thing to do. He had so thoroughly regretted what he had done and so longed for his father that he repented of his evil act and made a bold decision to return to his father and confess his wrong.

So with **confidence** (faith) that his father wanted him, he arose and took the long journey homeward. His father had never forgotten his precious son. In fact, he longed to see him return.

When the son was a long way off, his father saw him. He could not contain himself. He ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. The son confessed his sins. The father forgave him and received him. He ordered a lavish banquet, fit for a king. This son was no longer cut off from the life of his father. He had now been reconciled. The father said of him that “*he ... was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found*” (**Luke 15:32**). All had been confessed. All had been forgiven.

But what is the hidden meaning of this parable?

1. The **One** who is full of love and forgiveness and just waiting for rebellious sinners to repent and to confess their sins, is none other than **God Himself**.
2. The one who went away and has strayed so very far from such a father, is **you**.

You need the **forgiveness** of God.

- a. You need to **repent** of your sins.
  - b. You need to be **reconciled** to Him.
3. The **far country** in the parable is descriptive of a life lived in self-will and **moral distance** from God, His way and His word.
4. The **return** and welcome in the story are symbolic of the forgiveness that **awaits** you when you repent of your sins and put your trust in the Living God for salvation.

The Lord welcomes returning prodigals. Will you return? The bible says: “*Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out*” (John 6:37). Also, “*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (Rom 10:13).

If you draw near to the God of the bible, and by faith you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour, God himself will grant you eternal life as a **gift**.

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).*

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*David Rice*

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