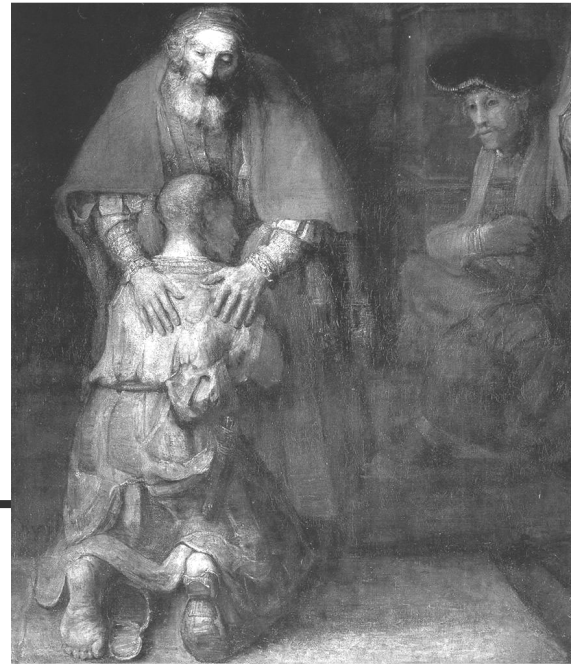


The Prodigal

Luke 15:11-32

Getting Started

1. What is your typical reaction when it seems someone is “getting away” with something (not being punished as much as you think they deserve)?
 2. If you are treated unfairly, how do you react?
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In the Word (Groups are not expected to discuss all questions!)

1. As the story begins, what does the younger son ask of the father? How might you rephrase his request; what is he saying to his father?
2. Describe the younger son’s life after he left his father. How would you describe his life? What would that look like today?
3. Why did he begin working for a pig farmer? How does he arrive at the decision to return home to his father? What does he plan on saying?
4. What do you think the father has been doing in the time the son has been gone? Why do you think that?
5. How does his father react when he sees the son coming home? What does the son say? What does the father say?
6. Why is the father so happy? Why is the older brother upset? How does the father respond to the older brother’s objections?

Application

1. In this parable, what does the father’s love represent? How do we guard against beginning to act like we “deserve” God’s love?
2. Have you, or someone you loved, ever been like the prodigal in this story? How did others respond to them?
3. When have you been like the older brother? From whom do we tend to withhold mercy? What people do you tend to resent receiving mercy?