

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Vaughn Rhodes

Essential Truth: *The Father meets returning sinners with compassion before they can finish their speech.*

Scripture: Luke 15:20b-21

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

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

Observations:

- Jesus tells the parable of the Prodigal Son in response to the religious ‘elite’s’ criticism of His practice of eating and gathering with lowest of society, tax collectors and sinners.
- There are three main characters in this parable. First there is the father, who represents God. The youngest son, who represents those who are sinners. Then finally there is the oldest son, who represents the ‘religious elite’.
- The youngest sought the things of this earth. When this young man is at his lowest point, he could finally see how wonderful it was to be even the lowest part of the father’s house.
- While the youngest son is out living in the world and partaking in all it has to offer, the father longs for his lost son to return to him.
- When the father ‘sees’ his son, he does not wait for the son to come to him, he goes to his child. Not a dignified walk, but out of true love for his returning son, he runs and lovingly embraces the repentant son.

Application:

This is the same desire God has for all his children ensnared in desire for the things of this world. Jesus did not seek the approval of this world. Jesus “ran” after the those devoured by earthly wants, to show them the forgiving love of his Father. The Lord above all things, that wants all to accept salvation. As Christians we have repented of sins and the Most High God has forgiven us. He has embraced us back to our intended created position with Him. Jesus instructed to seek out the lost. Those who have strayed from the Father’s House. Run and lead others to eternal embrace found through our Savior Jesus Christ!

Prayer: *Father you are an amazing God, filled with love for your creation. You are redemption. All we need to do is turn back to You. Through Jesus there is salvation. So may we let you run to us with open arms. May our thankfulness of you embrace be renewed each day and overwhelm us with the desire to pull others out of the darkness and into the house You have built for us. Let us not see their past, but the new brother or sister standing before us. Amen.*

