

Friday August 21, 2026
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Essential Truth: *The Father is always able and willing to restore His children.*

Scripture: Luke 15:22-24

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.

Observations:

- The father has already sacrificed so much in the giving of wealth to the son who spent it all, and still he wants to bring the best things for his wayward son.
- The level of rejoicing for the father is as if his son has come back to life from the dead!
- There is no lecture or disappointment talk, just relief – joy – celebration.

Application:

It is interesting how your age affects how you look at a story like this. As a young boy going to SS, this was one of those Bible stories that I learned well. And as a boy I naturally put myself in the spot of the son. I imagined if I had done all that the son did in the story, just like the son I would wonder..."how would my father ever forgive me?" Now as an adult and a father to three sons, I naturally put myself more into the father role. And as I imagine if my son came to me in the same situation my thought would be "of course I would welcome him back." Of course I would run to him and weep with joy. I think most parents would feel the same.

God has placed this in our hearts. If we have that general desire to welcome our children back and want to restore them, imagine how much more it is with our perfect heavenly Father. Restoring joy is what God wants for us when we stray from him. His invitation is to come; to come back; to rest. If there is apprehension to come back to God – why?! Like the song says, "Your goodness is running after me!"

Prayer: *Thank you for your goodness and love. Thank you for the picture from Luke 15 of the father celebrating his son who has come back. Help us to see/know/feel the depth of your love. In whatever way we need to "come back" to You, help us not hesitate, because we are confident in your amazing ability to forgive and restore. Help us also to live that same picture out in our daily lives with those around us. Amen.*

