

What is a Prodigal?



We all know the story about the parable of the Prodigal Son, where a young man leaves his father's home to live recklessly, only to return apologetic and remorseful. In today's language, the term Prodigal describes someone who diverges from their faith-based path after embracing Christian teachings and dedicating themselves to a life of service to God. This deviation may be manifested as a withdrawal from church attendance, neglect of religious observances, or a general lapse in faith.

The Message Bible- The Story of the Lost Son

Then he said, There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, I want what's coming to me right now." So, the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine throughout that country, and he began to feel it.

He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any. That brought him to his senses. He said, "All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand." This moment of self-awareness and realization is a key aspect of the Prodigal Son story, emphasizing the importance of self-awareness in our spiritual journey.

When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounded; he ran out, embraced and kissed him. The son started his speech: "Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son ever again." But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, "Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We're going to feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! My son is here, given up for dead, and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!" The overwhelming joy of the father at this moment is a powerful testament to the unconditional love and forgiveness in the story of the Prodigal Son.

The Message Bible- Elder Son

All this time, his older son was out in the field. When the day's work was done, he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, "Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast of barbecued beef because he has him home safe and sound."

The older brother stomped off angrily and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn't listen. The son said, "Look how long I've stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever

thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up, and you go all out with a feast!"

His father said, "Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive! He was lost, and he's found!"

X Tweets:

1. The parable of the Prodigal Son reminds us of the journey of self-discovery and redemption. No matter how far we stray, the path back home is always open. #ProdigalSon #Redemption
2. “When he was still far off, his father saw him...” This powerful moment showcases the unconditional love and forgiveness that awaits us, no matter our past. #UnconditionalLove #Forgiveness
3. Embrace these moments—they are pivotal to our growth! #SelfAwareness #SpiritualGrowth