

Still In the Family

Scripture: I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both Heaven & you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Please take me one as a hired servant. ~ Luke 15:18-19 (NLT)

Have you ever made a mistake and felt horrible about it? Have you ever told a lie to your parents, teacher, or someone in authority and then got in trouble for it? Have you ever failed a test and knew your parents were going to flip? Of course, you have. We all have had days where we have messed up and wished we could go back and undo all that we had done. In **Luke 15**, we find such a story. We meet a young man who decides to make a choice, but it ends up going horribly wrong. Older people call this story the Prodigal Son, but what if this story was retold to apply today's life. So here it is...

A young man named Tim has been working in the family business since he could walk. His older brother Jim has done so as well. One day Timmy decides he doesn't like working for Dad anymore and wants to try out a new adventure. He was the one in the family whom often day dreamed in school, often wondered off from others when going places, and like to envision a day where he would be the boss. So Tim decides to do something about it. He goes into his dad's office and says, "I want my cash out my share of stakes in the company business." Dad, who tries to reason with Tim but to no avail, slowly writes a check and sends Tim off to start his new adventure. Tim leaves the country life, which is all he has known, and moves into a big city. Upon his arrival, Tim begins to really feel like he is living the dream. He quickly buys a high-rise apartment, gets a brand new car, buys new designer clothes, and starts taking dates out to high dollar meals. However, Tim never saves anything or prepares for the future. Unfortunately, the economy hits hard times and Tim loses his job, car, house, friends, since he didn't have any money, and is left on the street. What does Tim do? He is hungry, cold, and broke. He only ones one thing, farming. He applies at a local farm to tend to the pig pens. Due to his lot in life, Tim literally starts eating and sleeping with the pigs. One day, while daydreaming, Tim remembers how well his dad's servants were treated. He gets up, quits job, and heads toward home. Dad, who had daily been looking down the road waiting for his return, sees him a far off and runs to meet him. He hugs him, gets him nicer clothes, and throws a party for him. When the son asked his dad to not do that since he had sinned and only wanted to be a servant, notice what his daddy said. "Yes you messed up, but you are still my son, which makes you still apart of this family." In short, that is exactly what God did for us. We wandered away in sin, but God will always welcome up back home and say you belong to me. You are forgiven, and you are **STILL APART OF THIS FAMILY!** So no matter what you have done, remember God still wants you to come back home.

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for anything I may have done wrong. Thank you for always allowing me to come back home and still be in the family. In Jesus name, Amen!

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