

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 sin and then felt horrible about it? Maybe you cheated on your spouse, lied to a coworker, defied a boss's orders, or spoke ill of your pastor. Of course, we all have sinned. Romans 3:23 tells us that all fall short of God's glory no matter how hard we try. We all have had days where we 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 to today's life. So here it is...

A young son has been working in the family business since he could walk. His older brother works in the business as well. One day the baby boy 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 about being the boss. Finally he has had enough and decides to do his own thing. He asks for his daddy to cut him his check in terms of stakes in the company business. Dad slowly writes a check and sends him off to start his new adventure. The son leaves the safe life and moves into a big city. Upon his arrival, he begins to sow his wild oats. He quickly buys a high-rise apartment, gets a brand new car, buys new designer clothes, and starts taking eating out to Ruth Crist, Outback, & Rioz. He is not concerned about future so he never saves for it. Unfortunately, the economy hits hard times and he loses his job, car, house, friends, since he didn't have any money, and is left on the street. What does he do? He is hungry, cold, and broke. He only knows one thing, farming. He applies at a local farm to tend to the pigpens. Due to his lot in life, he literally starts eating and sleeping with the pigs. One day, while daydreaming, he 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 wayward son asked his dad to not do the party 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 us 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!

Written by: Jonathan Vaughn