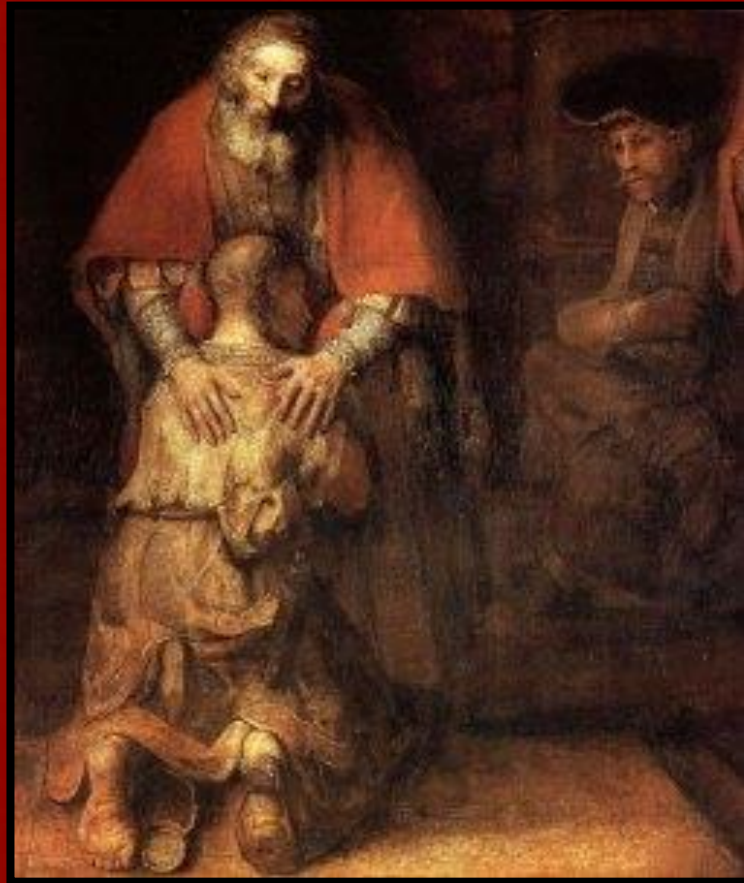




“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20)

Understanding God's fatherhood

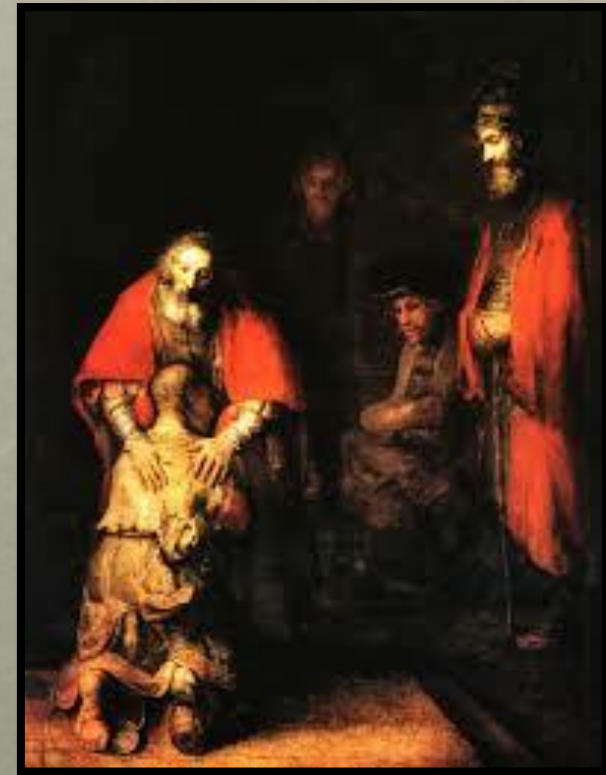
Context of the parable

- Luke Chapter 15
- “And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, ‘This Man receives sinners and eats with them.’” (Luke 15:2)
- Three Parables:
 - The Lost Sheep
 - The Lost Coin
 - The Lost Son



Truth about man

- Of the two sons, was one righteous and other a sinner?
- “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...” (Rom. 3:23)
- “They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.” (Psalm 14:3)



god's fatherhood

- **He is likened to a father, not a judge**
- We address Him as Father
 - “Our Father who art in heaven...”
- **He is wealthy**
- So why be anxious?
 - “Be anxious for nothing...” (Phil. 4:6)



god's fatherhood

- **He loves His children**
- “Love never fails.” (1 Cor. 13:8)
- **His joy is communion with mankind**
- “But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20)
- “He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is a son who causes shame and brings reproach. Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.” (Prov. 19:26-27)
- “Who ever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness.” (Prov. 20:20)

The father's restoration

- “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the **best robe** and put it on him, and put **a ring** on his hand and **sandals** on his feet. And bring **the fatted calf** here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry...” (Luke 15:22-23)
- Places on him the best robe
- Places a ring of his finger
- “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)



The father's restoration

- **Places sandals on his feet**
 - God cursed the ground: “Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...” (Gen. 3:18)
 - “...and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace...” (Eph. 6:15)
- **Sacrificed the fatted calf**
 - Translated: Wheat-fed bull-calf



summary

- Characteristics of God's Fatherhood
 - Likened to a father
 - He is wealthy
 - He loves His children
 - His joy is communion with mankind
 - The Father makes things better
- How does the Father restore us?
 - Places on him the best robe = BAPTISM
 - Places a ring of his finger = Seal of the Holy Spirit
 - Places sandals on his feet = the GOSPEL
 - Sacrificed a fatted calf = EUCHARIST