

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. “

-Luke 15:11-32

When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’

Luke 15:11-32

Younger son (sinner)
Older son (unforgiving)
Father (forgiving)

Younger Son

v12-took his inheritance early

v13-left his family, squandered wealth in “wild living”

v15-became a servant to survive

v17-“came to his senses” understood he sinned

v20-returned to his father

v21-repent

v24-forgiven

Older Son

v11-lived in the father's house

v25-served the father

v28-angry

v29-jealous

v30-slanderous

Father

v12-13-allowed son to leave with inheritance (didn't force him to stay)

v20-had compassion, ran to his son, embraced son

v24-accepted son back into his family and celebrated him

v31-showed compassion on oldest son, tried to get him to understand

A **TOOL** FOR THE WAY FORWARD



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life

John 3:16

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by the Spirit
-Ephesians 2:19-22

A **TOOL** FOR THE WAY FORWARD



“The older brother in the Prodigal Son parables shows that you can be in the Father’s home and still be far from the Father’s heart.

God never intended we do for Him without also doing with him.

Activity is a terrible trade off for intimacy.”

@iansimkins

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. -Ephesians 4:32

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. -Matthew 6:14

**Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
-Colossians 3:13**

Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. -Luke 6:37

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “ I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” -Matthew 18:21-22

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your sins. -Mark 11:25

Love prospers when a fault is forgiven but dwelling on it separates close friends. -Proverbs 17:9

“While all other cultures have stressed the importance of community and the need to forge a personal identity that negotiates and aligns with the common good, modernity stressed looking inward to forge one’s own identity based on our desires, and then moving outward to demand that society honor our individual identity and interests.”

-Timothy Keller

“If all that matters is individual autonomy, then forgiveness and reconciliation—which are designed to foster and maintain community—are of little importance. Forgiveness is either discouraged as imposing a moral burden on the person or at best, it is offered as a way of helping yourself acquire more peaceful inner feelings, of “healing ourselves of our hate.””

-Gregory Jones

“‘Cancel culture’ —ends up valuing fragility over strength, creating a society of constant, good versus-evil conflict over the smallest of issues as people compete for status as victims or as defenders of the victim. It atrophies our ability to lovingly overlook slights. But most of all, it sweeps away the very concept of forgiveness and reconciliation. Forgiveness is seen now as radically unjust and impractical, as short-circuiting the ability of victims to gain honor and virtue as others rise to defend them.

**-Bradley Campbell
and Jason Manning**

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.

-Romans 12:17-21

A **TOOL** FOR THE WAY FORWARD



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