

**Luke 15:20-24**  
**Sinners in the hands**  
**of a loving God or**  
**the ways of**  
**a prodigal father!**

**Prodigal**  
*recklessly wasteful,  
 extravagant,  
 profuse in giving,  
 lavish*  
*Webster*

**Luke 15**  
 “<sup>20</sup> And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; <sup>23</sup> and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and be merry; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.” And they began to be merry.

**The Pharisee Father**  
 ✓ **“You have burned your bridges.”**  
 ✓ **“You will have to earn your way back.”**  
 ✓ **“We can’t ever trust you given your obvious character flaws.”**

**The Prodigal Father**  
 ✓ **has no interest in what was wasted in the distant land.**  
 ✓ **has no inhibition in giving an extravagant party.**  
 ✓ **has no investment in retribution, reparation, or rehabilitation.**

**A heavenly father is not overly**  
**Possessive**  
**Freedom is serious.**

*A heavenly father is not overly*  
Possessive  
**Protective**  
*He allowed the son to learn.*  
*He did not enable the son in the distant land*

*A heavenly father is not overly*  
Possessive  
Protective  
**Punitive**  
*Punishment is for the unrepentant not the penitent.*

*A heavenly father is not overly*  
Possessive  
Protective  
Punitive  
**Passive**  
*Penitent sinners need a party.*

*A lesson*  
The joy of God is not in our freedom from failure  
**but in our insightful response to it.**

*Politically incorrect lessons*  
✓ **Without the wayward journey there would have been no insight.**  
✓ **Sometimes we may lose a battle in order to win the war.**  
✓ **In the end the son gained more than he lost .**

**The greatest victories**  
  
**might at first look like the greatest failures!!!**

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” **Ephesians 4:31-32**