

Overcoming the Pain of Waiting for Your Prodigal

Pastor Eddie Turner
Sunday, November 5, 2017

Luke 15:11-24(NLT)- Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. ¹² The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So, his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

¹³ “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. ¹⁴ About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. ¹⁵ He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will go home to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.’”

²⁰ “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. ²¹ His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

²² “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So, the party began.

~~~~~

Grandparents- God's Gift to Kids.”

~~~~~

Prov. 17:6(NLT)- Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged; parents are the pride of their children.

~~~~~

Grandchildren are the crowning glory of grandparents.

~~~~~

A crown is a symbol of separation and distinction. A crown signifies superiority and dignity.

~~~~~  
Grandchildren in the eyes of grandparents are kings and queens-they are our crowning glory!

- ~~~~~
- 1). A Grandparent is to be a Heritage Builder
  - 2). A Grandparent Should be a Relational Wall Builder Between Parents and Children.
  - 3). A Grandparent Should be the Prayer Warrior for their Grandchildren:

- ~~~~~
- Blended Family.

A blended family is where a child from a previous relationship is included in the family created by a new marriage.

Blended families are also referred to as step families.

- ~~~~~
- Over 1,500 step families are formed each day
  - Over 500,000 adults become new stepparents each year

- ~~~~~
- 37 million parents are step parents
  - 20 million children live in step families
  - The number of households with step children has more than doubled in the last decade

~~~~~

The reason it is referred to as a blended family is because two adults marry, at least one adult and often both adults have children, and now the task is to blend two family units into one single family.

The blending of two family units into one family often has challenges that the “traditional/nuclear family” (mother/father with their biological children) does not have.

~~~~~

One of the most paralyzing seasons a parent can experience, is watching from a distance as your grown child makes unwise and ungodly decisions that removes them from God’s blessings upon their life.

~~~~~  
Multitudes of parents who are digging out a living, serving in their churches, being good citizens and rejoicing by faith when they see other parent's children blessed-are likewise living in a continual pain, because many don't know where their children are or the last time they heard from them was a SOS call from another crisis.

~~~~~  
• Help for Prodigal's Parents

1). Seek your Spiritual and Emotional Rest in the Comfort of the Holy Spirit:

~~~~~  
Matt. 11:28-30(NLT)- Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰

~~~~~  
*Jesus said, "Come to me you who are weary and carry heavy burdens..."  
The word "weary" literally means the result of being "beaten up."*

~~~~~  
Parents whose grown children have taken a destructive path resemble being in a fight that you lose. You can't fix the situation and continually someone is beating and beating you, with every phone call; every argument, every crisis. There is no one to hit back, attack or make pay for the pain you are experiencing. You feel whipped and defeated!

~~~~~  
Jesus said- "come to me..."; notice he didn't say "this is what you do to fix the situation-he said come to me and I will give you rest."  
The word "rest" means "cessation, refreshment, make to cease."

~~~~~  
Jesus said, when you feel like you can't take anymore; your emotions are spent; your mind and body is weary dealing with all the stories, all the lies and deception-run to Jesus and he will give you a season of cessation and refreshment.

~~~~~  
Matt. 11: 30(NLT)- <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

~~~~~  
The word yoke signifies an agricultural instrument that coupled two oxen together. Whereas the traditional yoke is a heavy, hard to carry apparatus that was used to prohibit the animal

from fleeing or quitting because of the work load; Jesus said his yoke was easy (pleasant, mild and kind.)

~~~~~  
“the burden I give you is light.”

~~~~~  
Jesus tells us that when we are weary because of the burden of our wayward children-we need to “come to him and he will give us a cessation, a time of refreshing for our mind and emotions”

~~~~~  
Then when we are ready to engage again-this time we are coupled with him and he will take the heavy end and we get the light end!!!

~~~~~  
Amanda and I made it through our family hell with joy, when we allowed the Lord to do the heavy lifting!

- ~~~~~
1). Seek your Spiritual and Emotional Rest in the Comfort of the Holy Spirit:
2). War in Prayer but Walk in Love

~~~~~  
1 Peter 5:8 -Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

~~~~~  
There comes a day when we release our children to follow their own free will; but there is never a day that we cease exercising our spiritual authority in prayer over our children.

~~~~~  
Eph. 4:26(NLT)- And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry.

~~~~~  
Anger can be your servant or your master!

~~~~~  
When God created Adam and Eve He gave them the ability to experience anger and express aggression. Anger and aggression is not a result of the fall of man. Before the fall God said this to mankind:

Gen. 1:28(NIV)- God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

~~~~~  
Adam and Eve had a twofold task- “subdue the earth and rule over it.” Without an anger drive and the ability to be aggressive, Adam and Eve would have been unable to subdue the earth or rule over it.

~~~~~  
Anger and aggression were part of the original emotional equipment God gave Adam and Eve for carrying out their task. Experienced and expressed in healthy ways, anger and aggression feelings provide the energy and intensity for an effective life. However, because of the fall of mankind, anger has become one of man’s worst enemies. When anger is uncontrolled or misdirected it can complicate and even destroy our lives.

~~~~~  
I struggled to learn how to love my child, even while he was willingly doing things which were wrong.

~~~~~  
Luke 15:11-13(NLT)- Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So, his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

<sup>13</sup>“A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.

~~~~~  
Enabling vs Blessing

- ~~~~~
- The father only gave the child what was rightfully his

¹²The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So, his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

- ~~~~~
- During the son’s wayward living the Father did not fund his son’s lifestyle.
 - The Family blessings were made available again after confession and repentance (change in behavior)
- ~~~~~

What did the Father do while his son was gone?

- War in prayer:

~~~~~

(Praying for a resurrection of his spiritual senses)

Luke 11:24(NLT) - <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life.

~~~~~

(Praying for laborers across his path)

Luke 11:24(NLT) - He was lost, but now he is found.

Luke 11:15-16(NLT) - ¹⁵ He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

~~~~~

- Stay in faith

Luke 15:20(NLT)<sup>20</sup> - "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

~~~~~

Faith always expects the answer