

# Luke 15:17-19. the Repentance of the Prodigal.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of repentance, conversion, and seeking forgiveness through the story of the prodigal son.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 32:5, Luke 15:17-18, Romans 6:23, 1 John 1:9

**Topics:** "Repentance And Forgiveness", "Gods Mercy"

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## Description

Favell Lee Mortimer preaches about the prodigal son's journey from sin to repentance, highlighting the transformative power of realizing one's sinful state and the need for true repentance and confession. The prodigal's reflections upon coming to himself reveal a deep understanding of his father's love and mercy, leading to a resolution to return and seek forgiveness. The sermon emphasizes the importance of recognizing our guilt, having confidence in God's mercy, and continually seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with the Heavenly Father.

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## Transcript

God greatly blessed the prodigal's afflictions to his soul. While he was employed as a swineherd a great change took place in his mind--"He came to himself." This expression implies, that before he was not himself. A state of sin is a state of madness. When a person is converted he is in his right mind. How could any one indulge in sin, if he reflected on its dreadful consequences! "for the wages of sin is death!" But sinners are like the brutes that perish, and do not consider their latter end.

It is very interesting to hear the reflections of the prodigal when he was come to himself. He saw everything now in a new light. He understood the happiness of his father's house. Once he had abhorred its restraints and longed for liberty, but now he esteemed each servant happy who dwelt beneath that peaceful roof. Unconverted people think religion gloomy, and endeavor to escape from its influence; but when the Holy Spirit visits their hearts, they account the servants of God blessed, and long to be numbered among the saints.

The prodigal now felt convinced of his guilt. He not only lamented his miserable condition, but he traced it to his own sin; he blamed no one but himself. Thus the Spirit convinces of sin, and makes us feel that we have sinned against God, more than against any other being, because He is the greatest and best of beings, and our chief benefactor.

The prodigal felt confidence in his father's mercy. Though he felt unworthy to be called a son, yet he resolved to say "Father." Had he not felt this confidence, he might have been devoured by remorse, and have deemed it useless to return. Doubtless his memory furnished him with numerous instances of his father's love, of his readiness to forgive his early waywardness, and of his patient endurance of the provocations of his youth. He had enjoyed opportunities of knowing his father's character, and it now appeared to him in all its loveliness. Happy is it when the convinced sinner can hope in God's mercy. No child ever had such reason to believe that his father would receive him, as the chief of sinners has that God will in nowise cast him out; for God has so loved us, as to give his only Son a sacrifice for us; and He who spared not his own Son, will he not with him also freely give us all things?

The prodigal made a resolution to return, and openly to confess his sins, to entreat forgiveness, and to implore permission to become a servant, though not a son, in his father's house.

Have we ever made the resolution to return to God? Can we recall the time when we felt we had wandered from the best of fathers, and that we deserved to be rejected? Every true believer has repented of his sins, and has sought forgiveness with weeping and supplications. Nor does he ever cease to seek it while he lives upon earth. The sense of his own sinfulness increases, as he experiences more of his Father's goodness. Daily he says, "Forgive me my trespasses," and daily he feels that he is not worthy to be called a son.

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