

# PRODIGAL

## Lesson 5

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What we view as the boy's repentance in verse 17, may have been nothing more than a rehearsed plan to work off his debt and work himself back into favor with the father. There are earth-shaking, thundering, mountain moving things happening in verse 20.

Luke 15:20 (NIV)

**<sup>20</sup> 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.**

There are several things happening in this one verse to show us how the father responds to his son.

1. He saw. The word saw in verse 20 means to know by perception and make sure of. The father knew it was his son \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Examine: Gen. 16:6-13. God sees you up close and when you're far off. The father sees the son \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_. As defined in the text, the word compassion means \_\_\_\_\_.  
Culturally the father was supposed to treat the boy as a failure.
  - A. God knows us.
  - B. The father \_\_\_\_\_.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_. When the audience heard this, they would have audibly gasped and said "no way." There are at least three reasons Middle Eastern men do not run.
  - A. Middle Eastern men do not run because of significance. Boys run, but owners of estates with large wealth, high reputation and respect do not.

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## CONTINUED

There are at least three reasons why men did not run.

B. Middle Eastern men don't run because of \_\_\_\_\_.

When you run, you would have to take the robe in your hand to shorten its length and when you did \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

C. Middle Eastern men don't run because of \_\_\_\_\_. This was part of how the Pharisees interpreted the law.

Why did this father run? This father must run to his son \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

4. He fell on his neck and kissed him. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Middle Eastern men greeted one another with a kiss on the cheek. The kiss was a gesture of friendship and acceptance. This kiss shows the depths of the father's love for his son.

Have you noticed something about the text? The father took action \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_