

# PRODIGAL

## Lesson 6

### Rev. Dr. Kevin D. Sturdivant, Teacher

There is something that happens in verse 20 that is not specifically stated but will show itself to be extremely important as we study the next few verses. What made it public? What made this act public is when the father took off running, \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Knowing this critical point will help you understand what happens in the next few verses.

#### Luke 15:21-24 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> "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. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

In verse 21, we see the boy finally able to share a portion of his rehearsed speech, but something is different. Something has happened to change both the boy and the situation. What happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. The father's love \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. The change happened when the son saw just how much the father loved him. He didn't need to ask to be a hired servant because he knew his father's love. The father's love can also be seen in his instructions.

1. Quick bring the \_\_\_\_\_ and put it on him. This would have been his festival robe. The person wearing a festival robe wore the robe as a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_. Examine: Isaiah 61:10 The robe indicates a shift from a state of \_\_\_\_\_. This means the father no longer considers the boy's sin or shame. The father has made a choice \_\_\_\_\_. Examine: Ephesians 4:20-24.
2. The father orders a ring for the son's finger. The ring is most likely the signet ring of the house. The ring would be like a notary's stamp today. Examine: Gen. 41:41-43; Esther 8:8. The signet ring is a sign that all the father has he is \_\_\_\_\_.

# PRODIGAL - LESSON 6

## CONTINUED

3. Bring sandals for his feet. It appears when the son made it back to the town, he came back barefoot. At the time of the text, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The son must not be treated as a slave or servant, he must be treated as a free full member of the family. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. In Bible times, only wealthy people could afford to kill a fattened calf. It takes time to fatten a calf. This suggests the father has been preparing since the boy left \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. But this is more than celebrating and joy. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. The father is teaching the community how to respond to his son. \_\_\_\_\_

When we celebrate, we celebrate all the Father did to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. ! We have defined prodigal as wasteful, lavish, reckless and extravagant. In the eyes of the community the father would have been prodigal. All of the father's actions have been \_\_\_\_\_.

There was no cultural precedent for the father's behavior. And this would have been considered \_\_\_\_\_. The community may have been outraged by the father's actions. That's part of why Jesus tells this story. God was doing something different and the Pharisees could not handle it.