

A 40-DAY FAITH EXPERIENCE

HEALER

Why 40 Days?

Number “forty” + (time period) is mentioned 146 times in Scripture.

It symbolizes trial and testing, probation, or the fulfillment of promises.

40 Days in the Bible

- It rained for 40 days and nights when God wanted to cleanse the world through a flood and start over. (Genesis 7:12)
- Noah waited another 40 days after it rained before he opened a window in the Ark. (Genesis 8:6)

- The number 40 has great significance throughout the Torah and the Talmud. The number 40 represents transition or change; the concept of renewal; a new beginning. The number 40 has the power to lift a spiritual state.
- When a person becomes ritually impure, he must immerse in a ritual bath, a mikveh. The Talmud tells us that a mikveh must be filled with 40 se'ahs (a measure of water). Immersion in a mikveh is the consummate Jewish symbol of spiritual renewal.
- It is no accident that in the story of Noah, the rain poured for 40 days, and submerged the world in water. Just as a person leaves a mikveh pure, so too when the waters of the flood subsided, the world was purified from the licentiousness which had corrupted it in the days of Noah.

HEALER

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HEALER

H Help me!

E Enlighten me!

A Accept me!

What happens after I mess up?



**What happens
after I mess up?**

Luke 15:11-32

What is a parable?

Stories, especially those of Jesus, told to provide a vision of life, especially life in God's kingdom. Parable means a putting alongside for purposes of comparison and new understanding. Parables utilize pictures such as metaphors or similes and frequently extend them into a brief story to make a point or disclosure.

– Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary

The parables uttered by our Lord are all recorded in the synoptical (i.e., the first three) Gospels. The fourth Gospel contains no parable properly so called, although the illustration of the good shepherd (John 10:1–16) has all the essential features of a parable.

– Easton's Bible Dictionary

35 Parables of Jesus in the Gospels

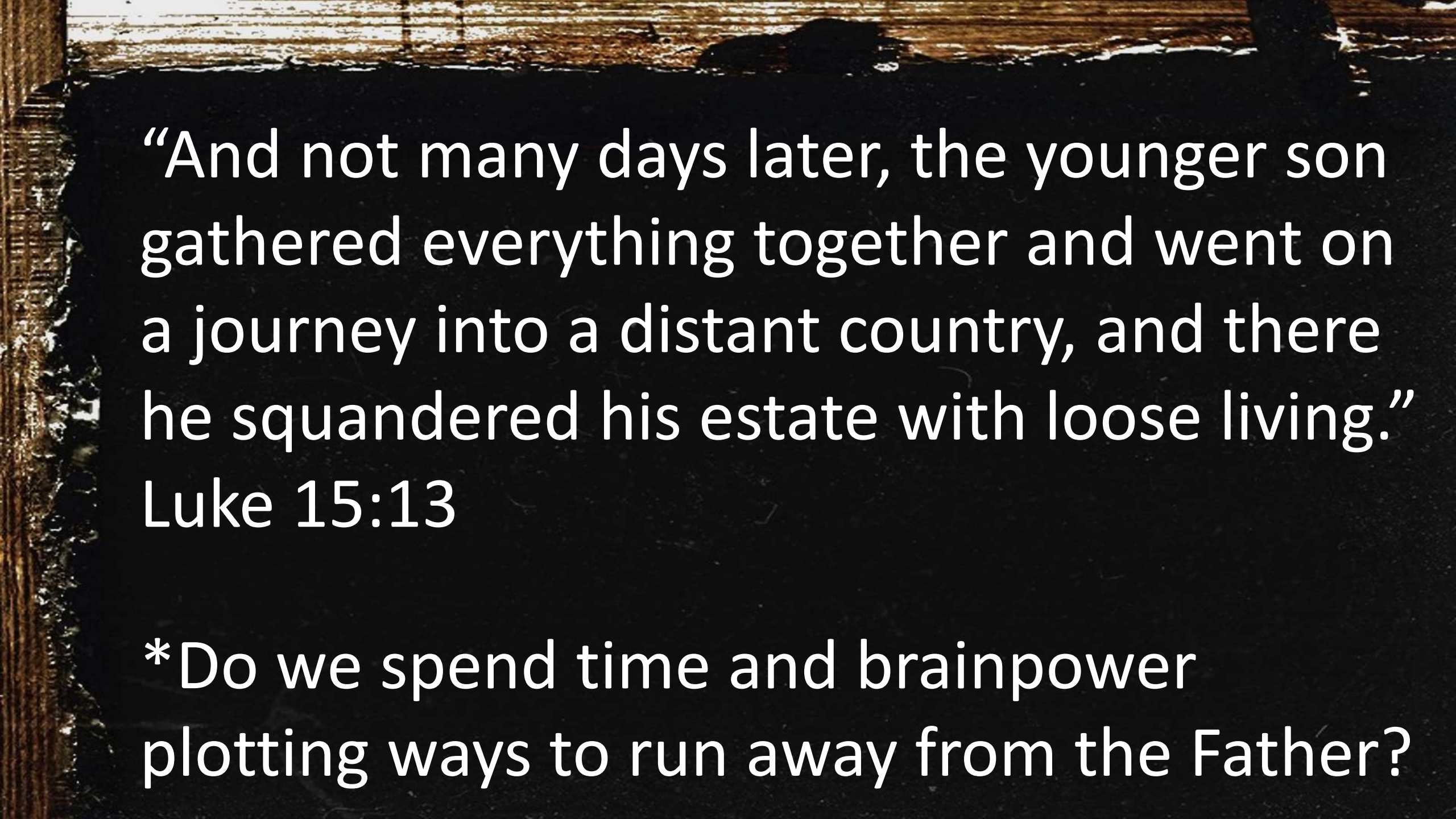
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|---|--|--|---|
| 1. The wise and foolish builders, Matt. 7:24–27; Luke 6:47, 49 | 9. Mustard seed, Matt. 13:31, 32; Mark 4:30–32; Luke 13:18, 19 | 18. Great supper, Luke 14:15–24 | 27. The pounds, Luke 19:11–27 |
| 2. Two debtors, Luke 7:41–47 | 10. Leaven, Matt. 13:33; Luke 13:20, 21 | 19. Lost sheep, Luke 15:3–7; Matt. 18:12–14 | 28. The two sons, Matt. 21:28–32 |
| 3. The rich fool, Luke 12:16–21 | 11. Hid treasure, Matt. 13:44 | 20. Lost piece of money, Luke 15:8–10 | 29. Wicked tenant farmers, Matt. 21:33–44; Mark 12:1–12; Luke 20:9–18 |
| 4. The servants waiting for their Lord, Luke 12:35–40 | 12. Pearl of great price, Matt. 13:45, 46 | 21. The prodigal and his brother, Luke 15:11–32 | 30. Marriage of the king's son, Matt. 22:1–14 |
| 5. Barren fig tree, Luke 13:6–9 | 13. Drawn net, Matt. 13:47–50 | 22. The unjust steward, Luke 16:1–9 | 31. Fig tree leafing, Matt. 24:32; Mark 13:28, 29 |
| 6. The sower, Matt. 13:3–9, 18–23; Mark 4:1–9, 14–20; Luke 8:5–8, 11–15 | 14. Unmerciful servant, Matt. 18:23–35 | 23. Rich man and Lazarus, Luke 16:19–31 | 32. Man taking a far journey, Mark 13:34–37 |
| 7. The tares, Matt. 13:24–30, 36–43 | 15. Good Samaritan, Luke 10:30–37 | 24. Pleading widow, Luke 18:1–8 | 33. Ten virgins, Matt. 25:1–13 |
| 8. Seed growing secretly, Mark 4:26–29 | 16. Friend at midnight, Luke 11:5–8 | 25. Pharisee and tax collector, Luke 18:9–14 | 34. Talents, Matt. 25:14–30 |
| | 17. Good shepherd, John 10:1–16 | 26. Laborers in the vineyard, Matt. 20:1–16 | 35. The vine, John 15:1–5. |

And He [Jesus] said, “A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.’ So he divided his wealth between them [Greek says literally “He divided to them the life”].” Luke 15:11-12

*An heir was entitled to claim his share of an estate during his father’s lifetime if he wished to do so. The eldest son could claim two thirds; the other children would divide the rest (Deuteronomy 21:17).

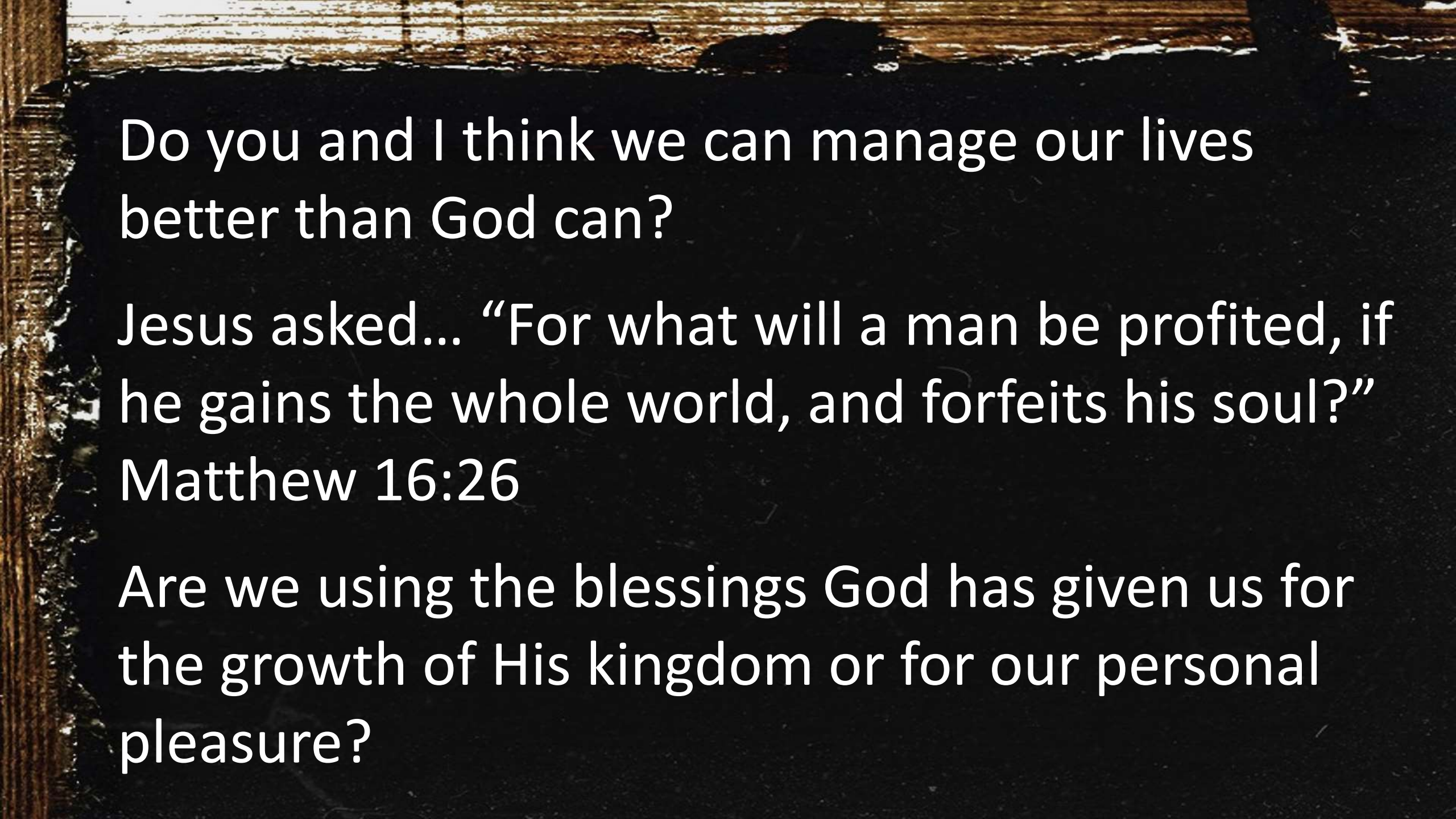
“Give me...” (Luke 15:12)

Do you and I think the Heavenly Father owes us anything?
Do you and I look upon His gifts as debts to be paid to us?



“And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.”
Luke 15:13

*Do we spend time and brainpower plotting ways to run away from the Father?

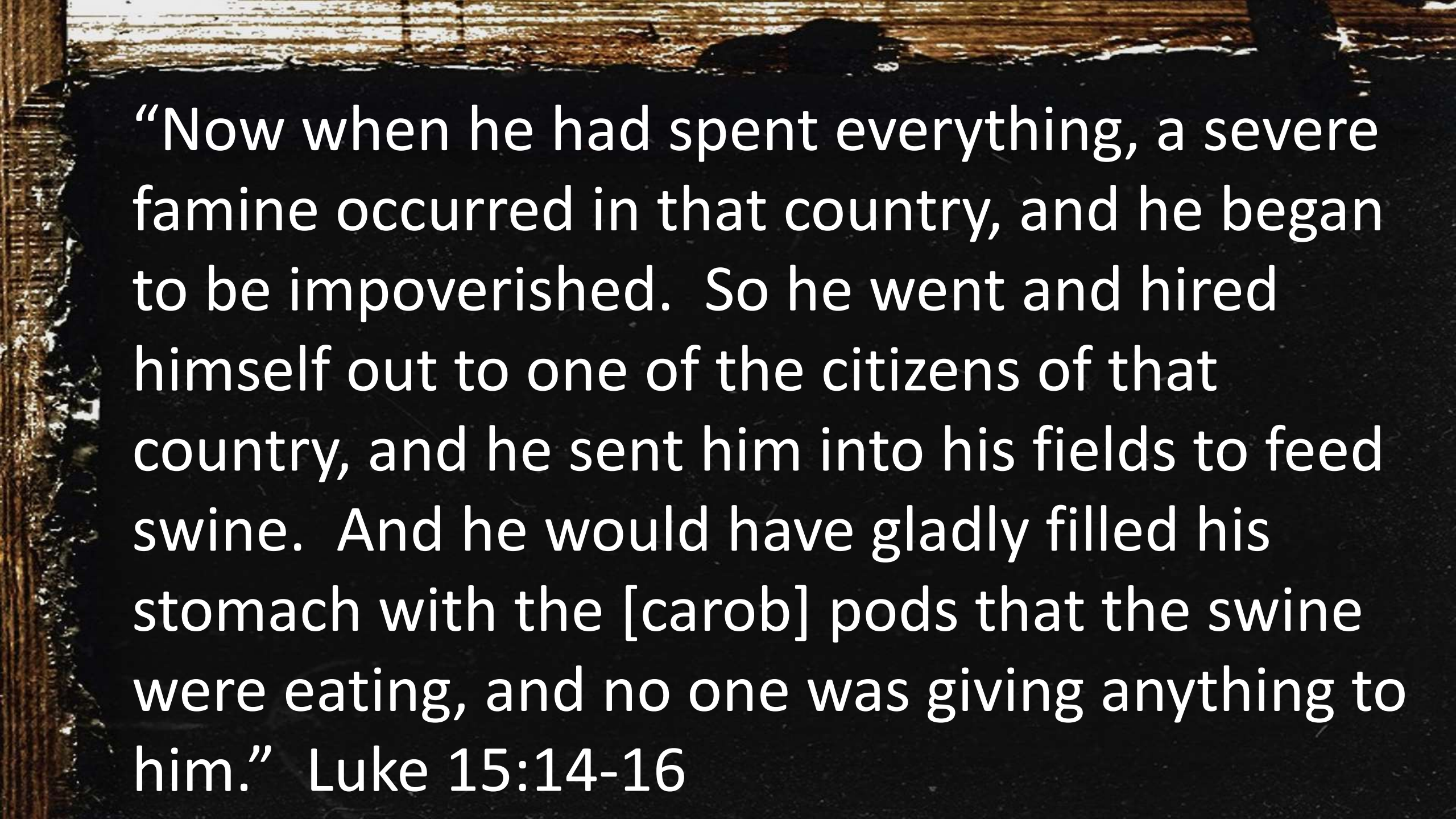


Do you and I think we can manage our lives better than God can?

Jesus asked... “For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul?”

Matthew 16:26

Are we using the blessings God has given us for the growth of His kingdom or for our personal pleasure?



“Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the [carob] pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.” Luke 15:14-16

What do I experience when I run from the Father?

- Departure
- Distance
- Expensive
- Wasteful
- Wanting
- Servitude
- Dissatisfaction
- No relief
- Feeling lost
- Spiritual death

Afflictions, when they are sanctified by divine grace, prove happy means of turning sinners from the error of their ways. The ear is opened to discipline and the heart disposed to receive instructions; they are sensible proofs both of the vanity of the world and of the mischievousness of sin. – Matthew Henry Commentary

“But when he came to his senses [literally “when he came to himself”], he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.” ’ ” Luke 15:17-19

*With a contrite, penitent, and obedient heart, we refer ourselves to the covenant of grace, which offers forgiveness to those that confess their sins.

– Matthew Henry Commentary

*He left with a selfish demand; he returned with a humble prayer. – Wycliffe Bible Commentary

The first step toward Healing

The younger son's first step is saying, "I have sinned."

What is a sinner? An unworthy person. One who deserves nothing. Yet a sinner wants something. So the sinner searches for someone who loves the unworthy, who is willing to help the undeserving. - Holman New Testament Commentary

Who is allowed to attend our church? Only sinners.

The Prodigal Son Needed a Healer

- Spiritual pain – regrets his decisions
- Emotional pain – loses his family
- Physical pain – experiences hunger
- Social pain – feels alone
- Financial pain – wastes his resources

The Father Waits and Watches

“So 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.”

Luke 15:20

*The Father expressed his kindness before the son expressed his repentance. The prodigal son came slowly, under a burden of shame and fear; but the tender father ran to meet him with his encouragements. – Matthew Henry Commentary

Restoration IS Healing

“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.’ 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; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate.” Luke 15:21-24

Restoration IS Healing

Thus says the Lord God,

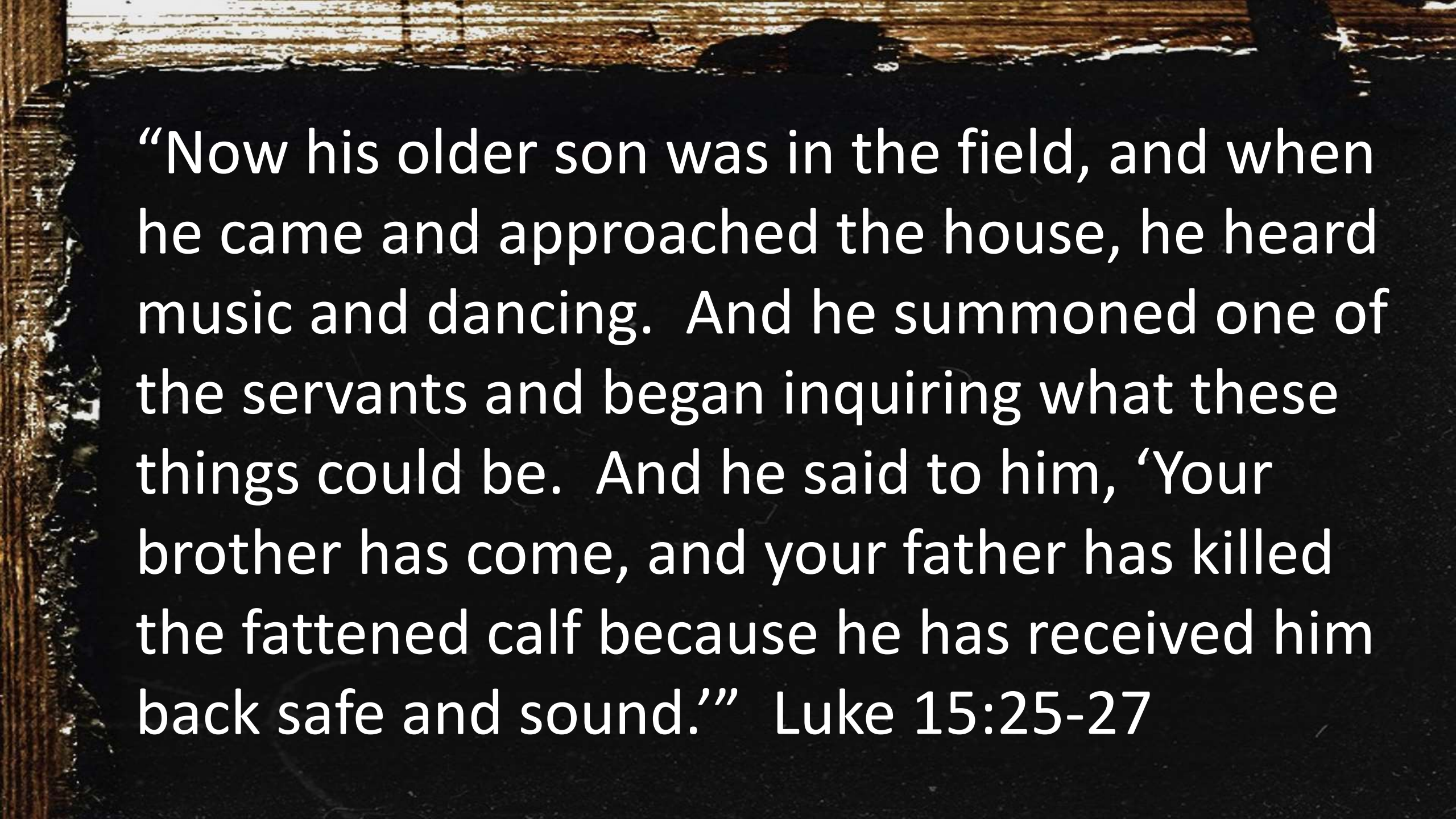
“It will also come to pass that before
they call, I will answer; and while they
are still speaking, I will hear.”

Isaiah 65:24

What does the Father give the son?

- the best **robe** – reserved for an honored guest
- a **ring** on his hand – signet; marked the position of sonship
- **sandals** on his feet – to make his travel easier
- the fattened **calf** - one animal was usually held in readiness for a special occasion, that honored guests might be served quickly

- Wycliffe Bible Commentary

The image shows a close-up of a wooden book cover. The top edge features a horizontal strip of light-colored wood with a visible grain. Below this, the main part of the cover is a dark, almost black, textured material, possibly leather or a heavy cloth, which shows some wear and slight discoloration. The left edge of the image shows the spine of the book, which is made of the same light-colored wood as the top strip. The text is printed in a white, sans-serif font, centered on the dark background.

“Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.’” Luke 15:25-27

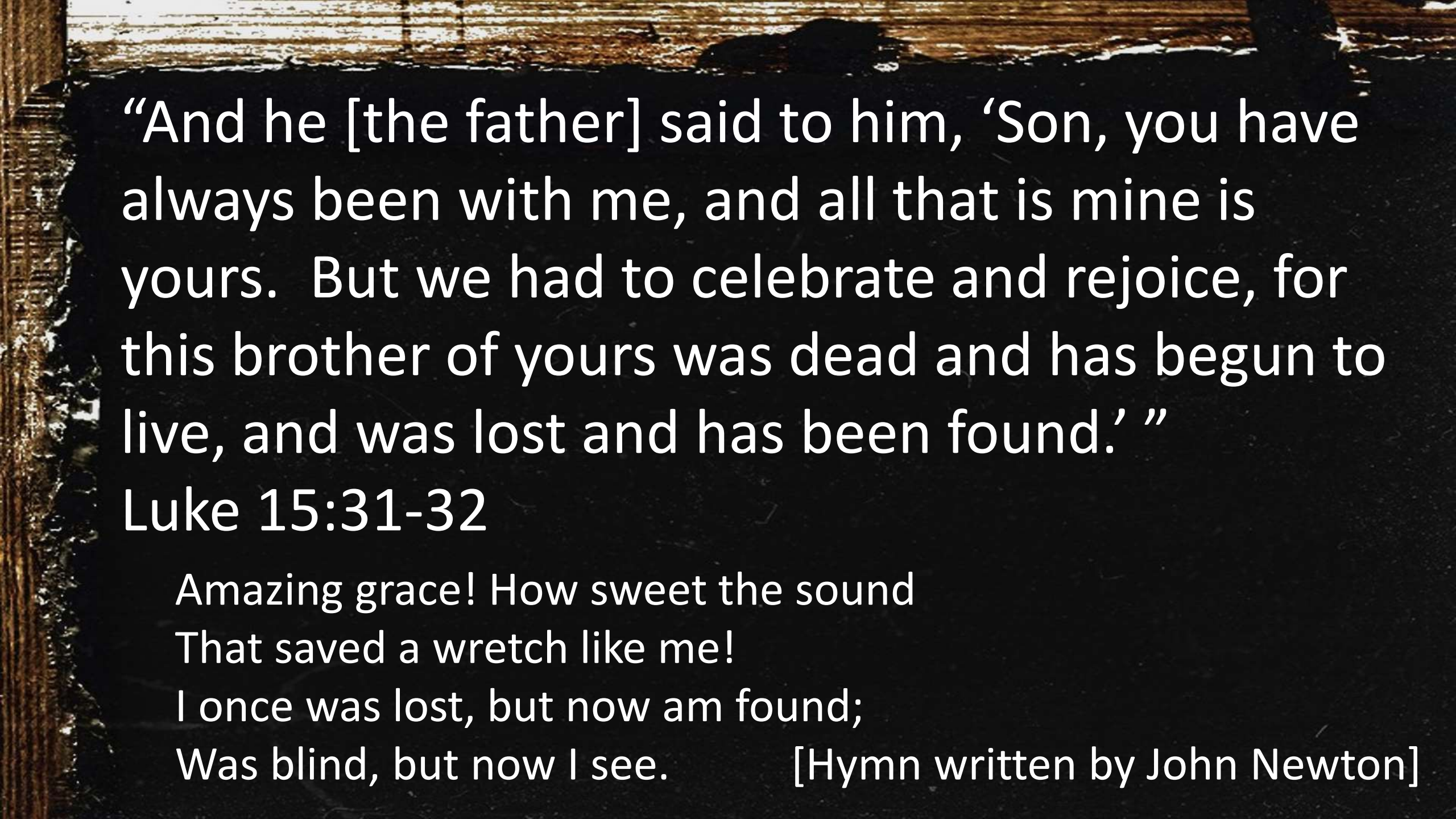
“But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. But he answered and said to his father, ‘Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.’” Luke 15:28-30

* “One can be lost even at home.” – New Bible Commentary

How did the older brother react?

He was angry. The reaction of the older son was jealousy and disgust. He was bitter over what he regarded as an injustice. The language implies self-righteousness, self-pity, and an inward alienation from his father's feeling comparable to the younger son's outer alienation from the family. A kid would have been of small value compared to the fattened calf. The son was accusing his father of cheating him out of a small gift, while lavishing extravagant favors on the prodigal. The older brother was contemptuous, and ready to think the worst of the younger brother. – Wycliffe Bible Commentary

***How do we react to the grace shown others?**



“And he [the father] said to him, ‘Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.’ ”

Luke 15:31-32

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

Was blind, but now I see.

[Hymn written by John Newton]

All three human characters needed a Healer.

Are you one of these?

- Are you the son (or daughter) who has run away from the father?
- Are you the parent whose child has run away from home (or the faith)?
- Are you the older brother who stubbornly and arrogantly refuses to forgive?

Questions for the prodigal son

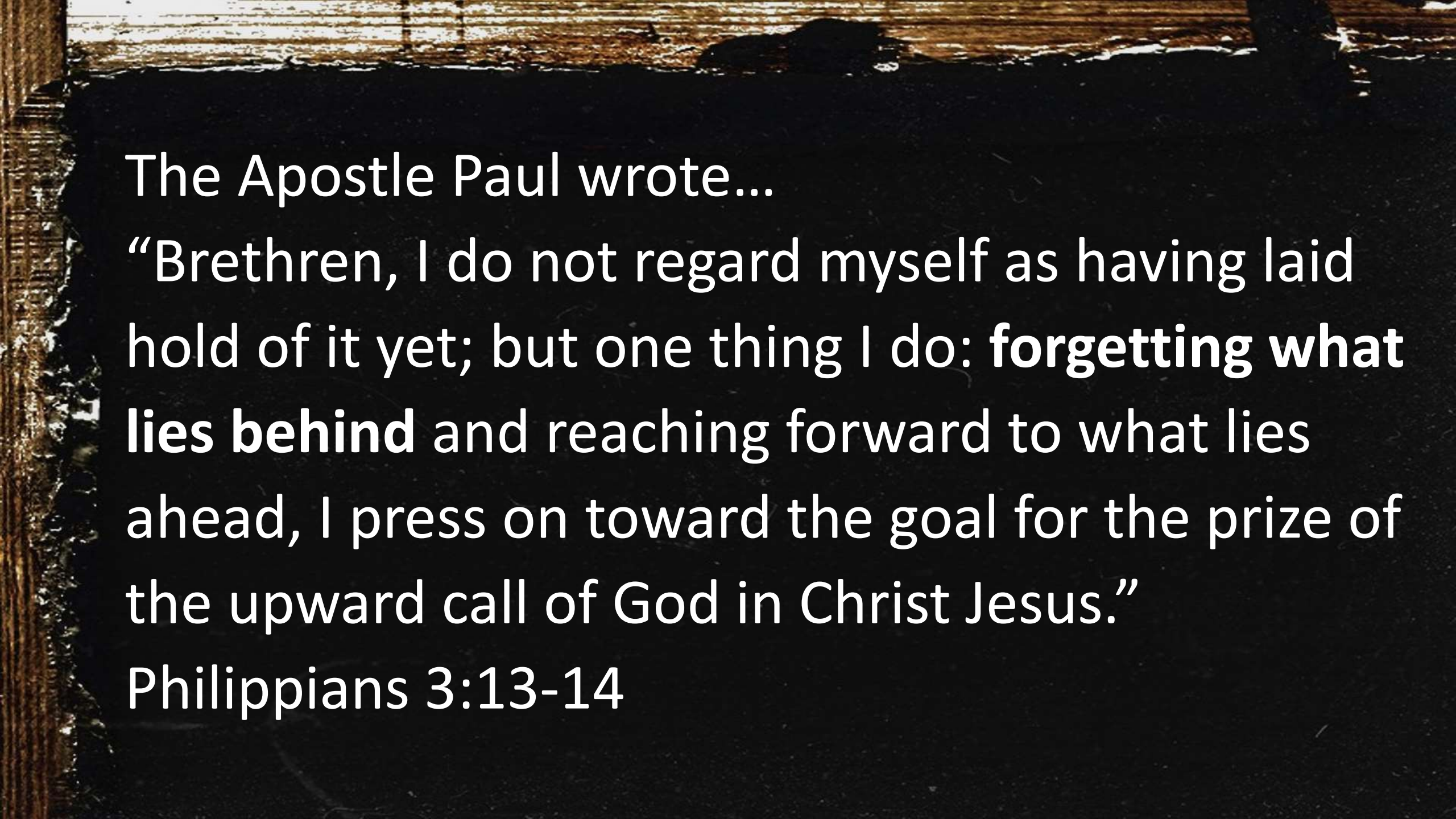
- Have you made selfish choices?
- Have you wasted time, money, or opportunities?
- Do you hurt enough to go home?
- Do you hurt enough to ask for forgiveness?
- Has your hurt taught you humility?
- Do you miss the Father?

Questions for the father

- Has your child run away from home (physically, spiritually, or emotionally)?
- Are you waiting and looking for them?
- Have you begged God for their safe return (physically, spiritually, emotionally)?
- Are you willing to unconditionally forgive them if they come home?
- Are you willing to forgive both the prodigal child and the arrogant child?

Questions for the older brother

- Do you begrudge God showing grace and forgiveness in others' lives?
- Do you want blessings for yourself but dislike when others are blessed?
- Do you follow all the rules but fail to show love?
- Do you believe that your actions will earn you the Father's love and acceptance?
- Do you share the Father's passion to bring others into His family, especially when you have nothing to lose?
- Do you refuse to rejoice when lost people come home?
- Do you even notice those outside the family?



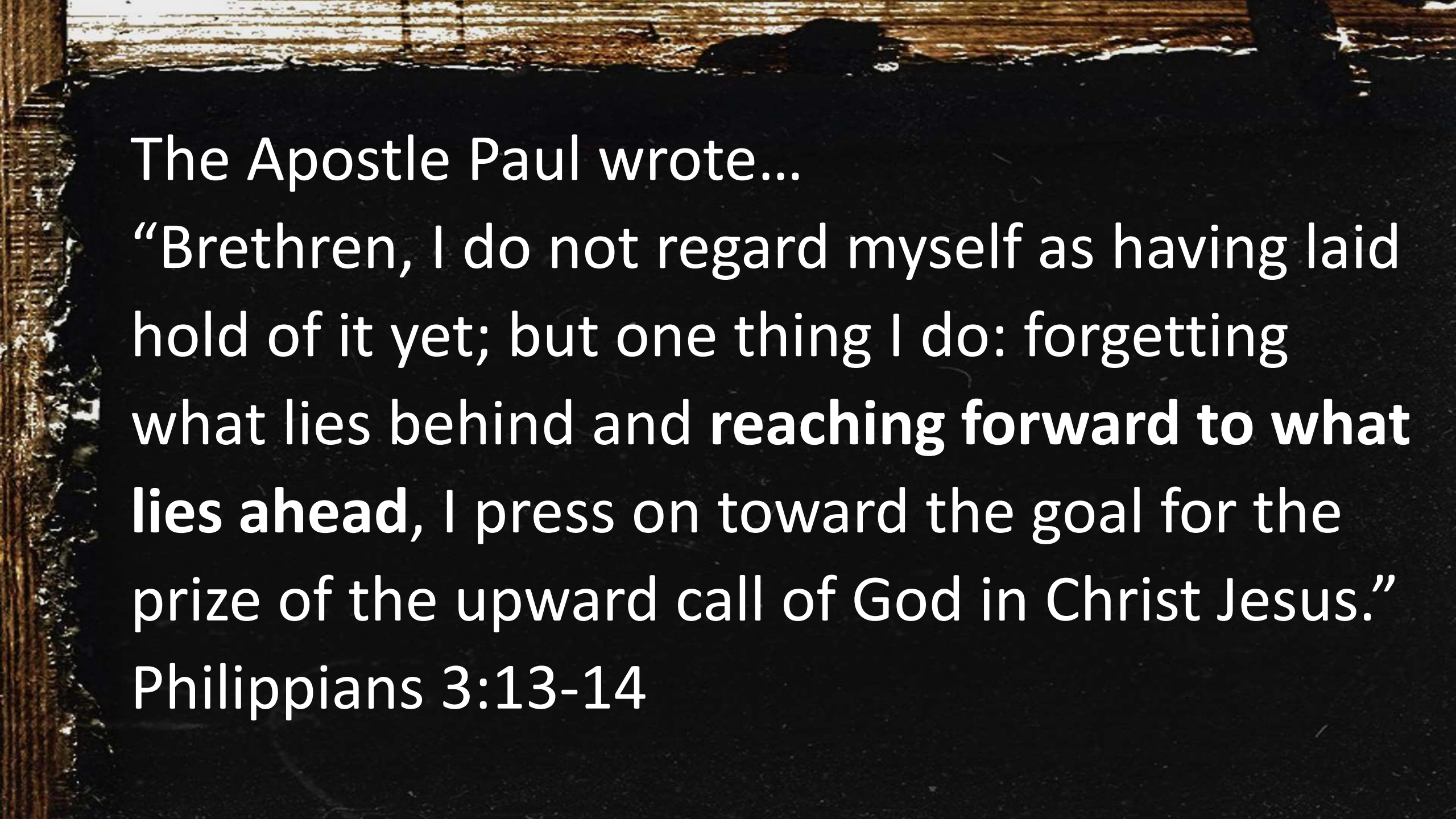
The Apostle Paul wrote...

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind** and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14

What was behind the prodigal son?

- A stable and loving family
- Selfishness
- Greed
- Wrong choices
- Disrespect to his family
- “Loose living”
- A time when he “came to himself”
- Financial irresponsibility
- Feelings of Regret
- Feelings of Guilt
- Feelings of Shame



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What was ahead for the prodigal son?

- Repentance
- Forgiveness
- A new start
- A path home
- Joy
- Celebration
- Negative reactions by some family members
- Acceptance by his father

The Healer Offers Acceptance

- God the Father wants His lost children to come home and waits and watches lovingly every day.
- Are you the younger son who needs to repent, seek forgiveness, and come home?
- Are you the self-righteous, unforgiving older brother who needs to forgive and help be a part of someone else coming home?

The Healer Offers Acceptance

- God the Father understands what it means to hurt
- God also understands what it means to have a child who hurts
- God loves you so much that He was willing see His Son hurt (even killed) for you.
- Do you want His help with your hurt?
- Are you ready to give Him your life?

The Healer Offers Acceptance

- All of us are guilty about wandering away from home
- God not only allows us to come home, He wants us to come home
- He not only wants us to come home, He pays the ultimate price (the death of Jesus on the cross) to provide for our way home
- No one is too sinful or too lost or too forgotten to come home

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“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” Acts 3:19

- Do you need to come home?
- Are you ready to follow Jesus as Savior?