



## When A Father's Dream Becomes a Nightmare (How to Survive When Things Go Wrong)

June 21, 2020

### Luke 15:11-14, (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, **give me the portion of goods that falls to me.**' So he divided to them his livelihood. <sup>13</sup> And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal (wasteful) living. <sup>14</sup> But when he had spent all, **there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.**

### Big Question: How Do You Respond when your World Turns Upside?

#### I. Three Amazing Strengths the Father Modeled

1. He **released what he could not control** (The need to fight, the need to stop, the need to comment)
2. He **waited until a better season came** (What was it like to wait for your son with no word?)
3. He **forgave what his son could not undo** (The father was committed to moving on)

### Luke 15:14-22, NKJV

Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. <sup>16</sup> And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"

<sup>20</sup> "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the **best robe** and put it on him, and put a **ring** on his hand and **sandals** on his feet.

#### II. Four Emotional Traps the Father Avoided

1. **The Responsibility Trap:** He did not take responsibility for his children's choices
2. **The Time Trap:** He did not go looking for him. He never tried to find him.
3. **The Resource Trap:** He did not invest any more money until his son repented.
4. **The Reputation Trap:** He never mentioned what anyone else thought about his son's failure

#### III. Four Lessons We Learn From This Father

1. Families should always be the place repentant people, who are willing to change, can come home to.
2. Families should never hold the past of a repentant person's failure over their head
3. Family members should never expect, after certain violations, to have the same level of trust (The prodigal did not expect to be trusted)
4. Families should have senior leaders who guide the family through tough seasons (The father stood up to the eldest son)



**Luke 15:25-32, NKJV**

<sup>25</sup> “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, ‘**Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.**’

<sup>28</sup> “But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

<sup>31</sup> “And he said to him, ‘**Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.** <sup>32</sup> **It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.**”

**Conclusion:**

**IV. Questions People Ask Me About Dads**

- 1. What is the toughest part about being a dad?**
  - Isolation (You often feel alone)
  - Responsibility (You feel a weight of the family is your job)
  - Lack of Appreciation (Men are not often complimented when they do well, but criticized when they fail)
- 2. What can a dad do if he is separated from his kids** (Reach out and become an honest friend, admit where you failed and build toward the future)