

# The Prodigal

**TEXT:** Luke 15: 11-32

Note the **BRONZE SCULPTURE** in Chattanooga. A ragged, bare-foot boy, exhausted, broken, has fallen into the arms of an old man, who wrapped his own robe around his wayward boy to shield the shame of his appearance. \$27,000, and were I a wealthy man, I would have bought it that day!

Consider the story of his great loss... did he lose his **SALVATION**? Not from reading this Scripture!

## 1. WHAT DID HE LOSE?:

- A. His **RELATIONSHIP** to the father? **NO!** He was still a **SON** (Moses, *Privilege vs. Relationship*)
- B. Did he lose his **INHERITANCE**? **NO!** He didn't reject it, but took it with him! What he asked for was not **WRONG**; it was just at the **WRONG TIME!**

(Heb. 9: 16-17) *For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.*

**NOTE** the inheritance of the children of God is **ALREADY** ours! The **TESTATOR** (Christ), died, and His **LAST WILL** was probated, on the Cross!

## 2. WHAT THE SON DEMANDED: "Give Me!" Thought only of himself. Many are just like him in this day!

## 3. HIS WAYWARD JOURNEY: *Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay!*

- A. The **FAR COUNTRY**: Far from his loving father. Far from home. Far from the blessings of a good life.
- B. Then, **ROCK BOTTOM!** He was fortunate; some run out of time before hitting it.
- C. He had **NOTHING LEFT** (but his **MEMORY!**) The unsaved have nothing to remember!

## 4. HIS DAY OF RECKONING: (R.G. Lee's "Payday, Someday!")

- A. The painful **SELF-EVALUATION**. He *looked around*, then he *looked in*, and then he *looked up!*
- B. Real **REPENTANCE**:

(Luke 15: 18-19) *I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.*

- C. The dreadful **RETURN** home, with an earnest plea:

("Unworthy") *Unworthy am I of the love He has given; unworthy to hold to His hand - amazed that a King would reach down to a slave; such love I cannot understand!*

## 5. THAT GLAD REUNION DAY!

- A. One had **NOTHING!**
- B. One had **EVERYTHING!** What? You thought he gave it all away? Why He owns it all!
- C. The Father of all **MERCY** *cordially forgave!*

**WHERE** are you headed tonight? Where is your present course going to lead you? Are you resting tonight, or are you in the **FAR COUNTRY**? What's it going to take to bring you home?