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**Fathering is Costly Ministry!**

*Last session we declared; from* ***Luke 6:38 Apostle-aphrased!***

***Jesus*** *said;* ***give away from yourself****; even the* ***costly substances*** *you’ve received;**and we find* ***God will*** *cause* ***men*** *to* ***give back*** *in turn; so, we* ***experience*** *and may even* ***see it coming*** *from* ***afar off****;**in its* ***good measure****;* ***pressed down****,* ***shaken together*** *and* ***running over.*** *For;**with the* ***same measure*** *we* ***chose*** *to* ***deny self*** *to* ***sacrificially give away from ourselves****; is the* ***same measure*** *by*

*We learned;* ***we can’t ever****,* ***beat God giving****! Our character, the* ***woman with the alabaster box*** *proved; even* ***if*** *we think to empty ourselves of* ***“little”*** *we thought we had to* ***give****;*

***If****, we do so thinking to* ***deny ourselves****; so* ***press in*** *past even self and the* ***evil present******with us****;* ***if*** *we’ll* ***worship God****, by* ***giving*** *simply to* ***“do that good”*** *we believe* ***He requires of us****; despite struggles coming for us;* ***if*** *we’ll gratefully* ***give****; knowing He had to have* ***given*** *it all to us first;*

*Whatever we thought to give so; truly becomes that* ***“costly”******ministering of our substance******God*** *sees as our* ***worship in spirit and truth****;* ***He*** *causes us to receive back in ways we least expect; not just that which is far* ***“greater”****; but as that* ***good part****;* ***He never permits*** *be* ***taken*** *from us.*

***It was in: Luke 10:42 Apostle-aphrased; we found that:***

***Jesus*** *declare to Martha; that His Mary whom He loved; who still* ***chose to sit*** *at* ***His feet*** *every chance she got; had* ***chosen*** *that* ***good part****; that once* ***given her****; could never be* ***“taken away”****. This as* ***“aphaireo-ou”*** *signified the* ***good part chosen*** *shall not; indeed,**could not* ***be touched*** *to* ***defile it****; in thinking to overtake and remove it; cut it off, overpower it,* ***nor even*** *smite it down; even in* ***our foolish choices*** *our* ***riotous living*** *can bring; will it* ***ever i****n any way be* ***permitted*** *to be* ***taken away******from her; or an who are His!***

*Today learn; even if we’ve messed up; if we’ll but come to ourselves; to remember the* ***fathering*** *we received as* ***God giving first****; we will receive again; the* ***costly ministry****; a* ***working out*** *our* ***own salvation*** *is.**And as* ***Abba Father****;* ***God recognizes*** *such as* ***worship****; and* ***it is He who shall always repay it!***

***“Give”***

***Give:*** *as* ***“didomi”*** *signifies to* ***intentionally bring forth*** *from, to* ***bestow*** *on others;**what we have* ***power over*** *to freely do. It signifies committing to the adventure God means giving to be; as* ***acts*** *of* ***worship*** *as well as* ***ministry.***

* *The* ***revelatory*** *is;* ***“didomi”*** *is also* ***granting*** *to* ***bestow****; requiring a* ***spiritual******pressing*** *in; to yield, release and deliver up; having overcome personal issues, and hindrances we all can find we* ***struggle with****; because of* ***evil*** *we’ve learned is ever;* ***present with us****.*

***“Evil is Present with me” continued!***

*Today learn* ***“kakos”*** *as* ***evil present with us****; is a demonic hand that thinks to touch us with hindering discouragement; to use uncertain sounds to awaken worldly desires; to make babes feel discontent; to foolishly take* ***substance given them in good faith*** *and go; but not to bless doing good; but waste on costly riotous living.*

*It works to hinder willingness to deny pride; to then* ***“aphorao”****; look away from trouble our own faults overtake us in; to rise denying self; when none spiritual seem about to restore; so take up our heart* ***“kakos”*** *caused to condemn us to being overtaken in our own faults; rather than arise to return the source from which our substance originally flowed as* ***costly ministry*** *to us.*

***Luke 15:11-32 Apostle-aphrased!***

*We call the* ***“Prodigal Son”****;**for**we tend to* ***focus*** *more on the* ***son’s foolish mistakes****; yet the word* ***“father”*** *appears* ***14 times****; compared to the* ***“sons” only being mentioned 9 times!***

**“Father & Fathering”**

***Father:*** *for most of us simply means that**male parent; whether one as a result of DNA or taking on the mantle through relationship; it is all about acting paternally and a performing the tasks or duties usually expected of a male parent.*

***Fathering:*** *utilizes characteristics enabling one to stand, even* ***withstand******whoever*** *or* ***whatever*** *proves* ***necessary****; including* ***denying self****; to help another on their journey to seeing, learning and taking advantage of all the roads that lead towards living their best life. The revelatory is this concept exists when men will step up to* ***accept*** *and* ***take on*** *as their* ***own****, an* ***overseeing responsibility******for*** *and* ***towards*** *all those* ***committed*** *to their* ***care****; as**they would their* ***biological children.***

*So too,* ***fathering*** *in church is* ***spiritually assigned****; where the* ***Holy Spirit*** *utilizes* ***men****; chosen as* ***pastors****; especially* ***bishops*** *full of* ***grace*** *and love to* ***continually nurture*** *to* ***unconditionally seek to responsibly build upon*** *their lives; as if their very own children.*

**Luke 15:11-20 Apostle-aphrasing!**

***Jesus taught****; A certain man had* ***two sons****; and the younger said to his* ***father****,* ***Father****; “Give me the portion of your goods that will belong to me!” And his* ***father*** *stopped right then and gave him what would have become his inheritance. Not long afterwards the young* ***son*** *gathered all that he felt was his together, and left town to go afar off. Once he was* ***“there”*** *he began to* ***“waste his substance with riotous living”****. And when he’d spent it all, a mighty famine arose in that land; and he began to experience* ***“be in desperate want”****.*

*So, the young* ***son*** *went and* ***“joined himself”*** *to a citizen of that country who sent him a Jew; into his fields to feed his swine. But the young man was so desperate that he would have tried to fill his belly with the husks he was giving the swine to eat; but no one would even permit him to do that. How long this went on we don’t know; but the Word says;* ***“when he came to himself”****, he said to himself; “Wait a minute; how many of* ***my father’s servants*** *have more than enough bread while I’m* ***“out here”*** *perishing with hunger? I need to rise up and* ***go find him*** *and say;* ***“Father****, I know I’ve sinned against heaven, and before you; I also know I’m* ***“no more worthy to be called your”******son****; but could you just treat me as you do your servants?” So, the younger* ***son*** *arose, and went to* ***find his father****; all the time rehearsing in his head what he’d say to try to move him; to check his anger; to negate any unforgiveness or bitterness that might still be festering.*

*But things in God often go opposite the way we rehearsed; for* ***3 unexpected mind-boggling things happened!***

***1st While he was still afar off; his father saw him!***

***2nd His father had immediate unwavering unconditional restorative compassion!***

***3rd His father ran to him; snatched him by the neck and loved on him unconditionally!***

**Luke 15:21-28 Apostle-aphrasing!**

*21 Well the younger son taken aback; overwhelmed by unexpected emotional display; tried rehearsed words. “Father, I know I sinned against heaven, in your sight and no more worthy to be called your son!”.*

*But his father ignored; he bypassed all that; instead ordered his servants; “Bring my best robe, put it on him; put my ring on his hand, my shoes on his feet; and bring and kill a fattened calf, so we can eat merrily.*

*For all I know is; “this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.* ***And it was on!***

***“But there was a problem!”***

*25 You see his elder who’d remained out in the fields working; turned to come home, heard the celebration and asked one of the servants, what the heck is going on? Well there’s always someone that loves to tell ya! One answered; yep; your brother’s back; and your father killed the fatted calf to celebrate his safe sound return.*

*And immediately the elder son became angry; refused to go in: though his father out trying to entreat him to.*

**Luke 15:29-32 Apostle-aphrasing!**

*Well the elder son was not only not having it; he* ***went off bitterly*** *against his dad’s actions, saying;* ***“What’s up with this?******I’ve*** *served you faithfully;* ***I’ve*** *never disrespected you;* ***I’ve*** *never rebelled against your commands; yet;* ***you’ve never*** *gave me a lamb to share with* ***my*** *friends to* ***celebrate me****. Oh, but soon as your irresponsible son decides to return after he’s wasted his substance with riotous living; you kill for him our fattened calf!*

*And his father said; “Son, you don’t get it; I know you’re always with me; and all I have is yours; but don’t get it twisted; it is right that we celebrate your brother turning around; for where he was dead; he’s alive and not lost; but found! And for this cause, it behooves us to minister of our better, enduring substance; to him.*

*I would like to take revelatory* ***poetic license*** *right here and stop to name this youngest;* ***“Desperation”****.*

***“Desperation”***

***Desperation:*** *is a* ***reckless state*** *progressively depressing for it is fueled by continuous**sense of* ***despair*** *based in* ***selfishness expressing*** *an* ***utter lack of hope****; for the evil present with us; makes it* ***see*** *and* ***care about nothing****;**but itself!*

*Such* ***“desperation”*** *is always based in* ***selfishness. It*** *makes us, despite upbringing; our training; despite all we’ve been taught or shown life example of; that would make all this seem so out of order; we instead* ***suddenly think surely now’s*** *the* ***right or justifiable time for us*** *to begin to both* ***speak*** *and even* ***act*** *in complete, utter selfish* ***recklessness.*** *It can make us not only* ***“reckless”*** *but so* ***headstrong*** *and* ***carelessly rash****; we absolutely* ***refuse*** *to* ***take heed*** *to or* ***be moved*** *by our inner* ***voice of reason****; the* ***“integrity”*** *of that which we* ***already know*** *to* ***be true*** *in* ***our hearts****. If we turn away from that* ***inner voice of reason*** *long enough; we actually* ***lose*** *our* ***self****; or* ***the will*** *to* ***“hold fast*** *to whatever* ***“integrity”*** *we once had in our* ***hearts”****.*

*We* ***act indifferent****;* ***disregard******consequences*** *and our attitudes and behavior reveal we’ve lost our* ***spiritual governors;*** *and* ***worse*** *have begun to become* ***spiritually blind especially to self.*** *Thus, we continue to* ***act*** *and* ***look*** *to others like we’ve* ***lost*** *not just* ***our way****; but* ***our minds****. Now consider the* ***“Father”*** *in this; by* ***revelatory poetic******license*** *I call him* ***“Restoration”.*** *We find despite his son’s obvious* ***“desperation”*** *in asking such a* ***selfish thing****; yet as* ***“Abba”*** *the father so loves him that he’s only moved by that* ***great spiritual attribute*** *he* ***has*** *called* ***“integrity”****;**which* ***“desperation”*** *knows nothing about; or moves in* ***wisdom*** *or* ***care****!*

**Luke 15:11-13 Apostle-aphrased!**

*And not many days* ***after*** *the* ***younger son*** *as desperation;* ***gathered*** *his* ***stuff; forgetting how his father was restoration;*** *and chose to* ***take off*** *and* ***journey*** *towards all that called unto him from a* ***far country.*** *But there he* ***sadly “wasted his substance with riotous living”.***

***“Wasted Substance”***

***Wasted:*** *in* ***Luke 15:13*** *is* ***“diaskorpizo”*** *signifying to* ***winnow*** *or* ***indiscriminately******scatter*** *about; to* ***disperse****; to* ***sow carelessly****; so,* ***give away unwisely****; until* ***suddenly****; we find all is totally* ***dissipated****;* ***squandered*** *and we’re* ***totally*** *and* ***completely separated******away*** *from all* ***we thought*** *we had* ***possessive control*** *of or* ***cared for us****.*

***Substance****: is a word that appears in the New Testament only four times and rendered four different ways. Here it is* ***“ousia”****; signifying our possessions,* ***goods****,* ***property****; our* ***stuff****; our* ***“things”*** *we tend to* ***selfishly possess****; for we usually* ***feel*** *we* ***gathered*** *or* ***earned*** *by utilizing our* ***own wits****,* ***efforts****,* ***labor****,* ***strength*** *or* ***exercising*** *of* ***frugality****. This* ***substance*** *can be* ***wasted*** *if we’re not careful; especially spiritually!*

***“Riotous Living”***

***Riotous Living:*** *is* ***“asotos-zao”****;**living for the moment; self-indulgently sowing into the disorderly, chaotic, self-indulgently; attempting to live a lifetime of “wish I” that will always end with a destructive quickness; especially spiritually.*

*The revelatory is; it also implies seeking for what we felt we never had; or missed out on; so, look for peace and love; but settle for satisfaction in what we already know in ourselves are the wrong places or with the wrong people.*

*The foolish young man wasted what he claimed as his own substance; thinking he was in control; so, gave himself over to extravagantly live what he now felt was his own life. He wasted all his substance living in ways he knew would upset moral, familial and spiritual order taught. Worse, “asotos-zao” also implies; he “knew in himself” his choice to live so was “ruinous” to his father’s peace of mind; while he enjoyed himself.*

*When the son gave himself over unto continuous unrestrained, arbitrary lavishing of all the abundance his father freely gave upon those unworthy; he knowingly chose to continually waste his substance on what was beneath him and all his father taught him. So, any riotous living proves costly to accept the decadence, overindulgence, licentious ways of fast, loose living we think is a prerequisite for gaining intimacy of relationship; we’ll realize; the* ***heaviest cost is “knowing in ourselves” we meanwhile; wasted our substance.***

*But desperation which progressively declines into discouraged despair; continued on despite the son already knowing in himself; all this was completely out of order. He knew it would wind up being far too costly; for living so; causes us to look up in a suddenly; when trouble arises as appointed; coming on account of the Word; and we’ve spent all our substance; wasted it foolishly; with absolutely no gain; we’ll know want spiritually!*

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**Luke 15:14 Apostle-aphrased!**

*And when he had* ***finally “spent all he had”****; there arose a* ***mighty famine*** *in* ***“that” land****; and* ***suddenly****; he began to* ***“be in want”****.*

***“Spent All He Had”***

***Spent All:*** *as* ***“dapanao-pas”*** *signifies when he’d* ***expended*** *all he thought he’d physically had* ***control of****; he became* ***consumed in*** *an* ***incurring*** *that he* ***so foolishly failed*** *to* ***count*** *the* ***cost*** *of.*

* ***Suddenly****, he found what it was like to be* ***left feeling*** *not just* ***desperate*** *but* ***“destitute”****;**for all* ***fell apart****;* ***marked*** *by his beginning to* ***experience*** *that* ***he’d never known before****; for soon as a* ***“costly there arose”******came for him;*** *he began unmistakably and undeniably to* ***“know in himself”*** *what* ***being in want spiritually****,* ***physically*** *and* ***emotionally was.***

***“There Arose”***

***There Arose:*** *as* ***“ginomai”*** *signifies there was* ***generated****; caused to* ***assemble itself, arise*** *and begin to* ***manifest itself as a coming to pass as ordered.***

*The revelatory of* ***“ginomai”*** *is it signifies* ***God ordered displays*** *scheduled to be* ***seen*** *in the* ***afterwards*** *of an event;* ***momentous coming into beings****;* ***prescheduled*** *and* ***appointed*** *to* ***follow.*** *It signifies a* ***coming “sure”*** *to* ***follow*** *as one who’s* ***married to****;* ***comes seeking his own.***

***God ordains “ginomai”*** *to* ***follow performing*** *a* ***finishing****; a* ***dividing away from****; all to* ***fulfill His forbidding*** *that* ***surely follows****; especially our* ***foolish*** *or* ***rebellious choices.*** *It reflects* ***trouble coming on account*** *of our* ***forgetting*** *what* ***His Word warned!***

***“Mighty Famine in “That” Land”***

***Mighty Famine:*** *is* ***“ischuros-limos”****;**signifying a* ***forcible****,* ***boisterous “hungering” coming God permitted****; spiritually* ***unleashing*** *a* ***powerful lying spirit*** *or* ***strongman.***

***Know this; the 12 Strongman Manifestations work as spiritual tag-teams in life:***

1. ***Lying Spirit - root of the spirit of error (2 Chronicles 18:22)***
2. ***Spirit of Fear (2 Timothy 1:7)***
3. ***Spirit of Bondage (Romans 8:15)***
4. ***Spirit of Antichrist – at work in the world and increasing; even now! (1 John 4:3)***
5. ***Spirit of Jealousy – like unto witchcraft in how it works us! (Numbers 5:14)***
6. ***Haughty Spirit – pride personified! (Proverbs 16:18)***
7. ***Spirit of Divination – working of familiar spirits personified (Acts 16:16-18)***
8. ***Spirit of Infirmity – (Luke 13:11-13)***
9. ***Spirit of Heaviness – easily removed putting on garment of praise! (Isaiah 61:3)***
10. ***Deaf & Dumb Spirit – requires pray and fasting to cast it out! (Mark 9:17-29)***
11. ***Perverse Spirit – (Isaiah 19:14)***
12. ***Spirit of Whoredom – (Hosea 5:4)***

*So, the revelatory is;* ***mighty famines*** *are formed by tags teams of* ***strong man spirits****;**who work together;* ***magnifying*** *their strengths; working to produce* ***hungering*** *in us**we have no idea in the world how to* ***quench****;* ***hungering*** *the world**won’t* ***feed*** *in its* ***giving. God*** *permits* ***“ischuros-limos” to arise to come for us;*** *to give us* ***time*** *and* ***opportunity*** *to begin to* ***“come to ourselves”****; so,* ***hear faith whisper****;* ***“There’s no place like home!”***

*What we must already* ***“know in ourselves”****;* ***is mighty famine*** *can only* ***audaciously*** *come to make us* ***hunger so****; when our* ***choices*** *have given it* ***ground****; opened us up to it! We* ***permit stuff come for us if choosing to hang out “there”****;**in those places we**knew as the younger son knew; were* ***always “far off lands” spiritually****; from where we ought be. They also come thinking to* ***prosper; in being weapon God permitted*** *to* ***arise following; yet we must remember;*** *His* ***Word declares*** *the* ***substance now faith*** *is* ***overcomes it.***

***“Began to Be in Want”***

***Began to:*** *is* ***“archomai-hustereo””****; which signifies* ***commencing*** *in the* ***later*** *time called* ***“afterwards”****; spiritually the* ***orderly progression*** *of* ***time****; the ruination that* ***comes*** *as if* ***rehearsed****; as in an* ***ordered time****; as a* ***following occurrence****;* ***right on cue.***

***Be in Want:*** *as* ***“hustewreo”*** *signifies a* ***regressing****; a suddenly* ***feeling destitute****;* ***inferior*** *to all around him;* ***feeling*** *like the* ***tail*** *instead of the* ***head****;* ***feeling deficient****; a* ***coming behind*** *in* ***all****;* ***falling short****;* ***seen as****, so* ***treated like*** *an* ***absolute ruined******failure.***



**Luke 15:15-16 Apostle-aphrased!**

*In* ***desperation*** *the young son* ***“joined himself to”*** *a citizen of that country, who sent him to work his fields and feed his swine. And still* ***he hungered so****; that he’d gladly have eaten the despised swill he was to feed the swine; yet he found* ***“none gave to him”*** *that!*

***“Joined Himself To”***

***Joined Himself To:*** *is* ***“kollao”*** *(kol-lah'-o);* ***to force oneself to stick*** *and* ***stay with****; as if* ***stuck in place*** *with* ***glue****;* ***determinedly accompanying****;* ***inseparably cleaving continually unto.***

***“No Man Gave Unto Him”***

***No Man:*** *is* ***“oudeis”*** *signifying* ***not even one man****,* ***woman*** *or* ***thing*** *did anything he’d have* ***expected****,* ***hoped*** *or* ***so desperately needed.***

***Gave Unto Him:*** *as* ***“didomi”*** *signifies* ***no man*** *was willing to* ***unconditionally “minister unto him*** *of their* ***substance as his father had****;**none willing to* ***bestow w****hat he’d need to become* ***fruitful****; to* ***resiliently bring forth******recommitted*** *to* ***deliver up****;* ***none willing*** *to* ***unconditionally grant****;* ***freely*** *bring him to a* ***place*** *of* ***increase****; being* ***strengthened****,* ***empowered*** *to* ***receive*** *the* ***more*** *to* ***give back****.*

**Luke 15:17-19 Apostle-aphrased!**

*And when* ***“he came to himself”****,**he said;*

***“****How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread; and here I am perishing with hunger.* ***I’ll just arise*** *and go to my father and say; “Father, I’ve sinned against heaven, and before thee; And I know I’m* ***“no more worthy to be called yours”****; your* ***son****; so just make me as but one of your hired servants”.*

**“Came to Himself”**

***Came to Himself:*** *is* ***“erchomai”*** *signifying to* ***turn and come go; begin to accompany, to now appear set*** *to* ***enter into****,* ***having fallen out of; or falling out with; so readied to begin to grow again.***

**“No More Worthy to be Called”**

***No More Worthy:*** *is* ***“ouketi-axios” no longer deserving*** *or* ***suitable*** *to be* ***rewarded by being?***

***To Be Called Yours:*** *is* ***“kaleo”*** *signifying* ***called aloud*** *by* ***name*** *unto* ***life****; unto* ***belonging****;* ***awakened****;* ***directed****;* ***bid to come forth participating*** *as again received as part of;**as in a* ***belonging to****; as* ***“His”****;**again, the* ***Lord’s!***

***Luke 15:20-21***

*And* ***he arose****, and came to his father. But when he was yet* ***a great way off****;**his* ***father saw him*** *and having* ***compassion****;* ***ran to****;* ***fell on his neck****;* ***hugged****,* ***kissed, instantly unconditionally receiving; restored him****.*

*And the son said unto him; “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am* ***no more worthy*** *to be* ***called*** *thy son”.*

 **“Having Compassion”**

***Having Compassion:*** *is* ***“splagchnizomai”*** *to have our* ***bowels yearn*** *to* ***see change come*** *by doing what* ***others won’t****;* ***moved*** *to* ***take action*** *in feeling* ***restorative compassion****.*

**“Is Alive Again”**

***Is Alive Again:*** *is* ***“anazao”*** *signifying to now be* ***resiliently restored****; able to* ***recover one’s life****;* ***revived*** *to* ***live again!***

*Right here we must consider the* ***“Father”*** *moved in restorative compassion despite the* ***“desperation”*** *he knew had managed to move and manipulate his son. His having compassion is a* ***great spiritual attribute that is also called having the “integrity” as the very substance we’re supposed to minister out of.*** *Such* ***compassionate, restorative integrity will*** *always* ***be at work enabling*** *us* ***“see”*** *those we’re to* ***minister to coming****;**from* ***a great way off****.*

**“What’s Compassionate Restorative Integrity Look Like in Action?”**

***Luke 15:22-30***

 *But the father said to his servants;* ***“Bring forth the best robe****, and* ***put it on him****; and* ***put a ring on his hand*** *and* ***shoes on his feet****; And bring hither the* ***fatted calf****, and* ***kill it****; and let us* ***eat and be merry****; For this my son was dead, and* ***is alive again****; he was lost, and is found”.* ***And they began to be merry.***

*Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in even when his father came out and begged him to. But the elder held on to his anger saying; “All these years I’ve served you and I never! And yet you never gave me what you’ve poured out on him. But soon as your son has come, who wasted his portion of your substance; you kill for him the fatted calf”.*

*Ahhh but the* ***“elder son”****; if the* ***younger we*** *named* ***“desperation”; and dad was “restoration”; what would revelatory poetic******license*** *call this young man?*

***“Frustration”****; because it makes it hard for us to* ***“hold fast integrity in our hearts”****.*

***“Frustration”***

***Frustration:*** *prevents us from feeling we are able to accomplish a purpose or fulfill some desire; to persistently thwart with usually* ***warped expectations****. It is also can cause us to hold fast to feelings of baffling, disappointing, discouragement further making our ability to minister effectually ineffectual, invalid; even to the point of completely nullifying it intended effect.*

**Luke 15:31-32**

*And he said unto him; “Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found”.*

**Luke 15:11-20 Apostle-aphrasing!**

***Jesus taught****; A certain man had two sons; and the younger said to his father, Father; “Give me the portion of your goods that will belong to me!” And his father stopped right then and gave him what would have become his inheritance. Not long afterwards the young son gathered all that he felt was his together, and left town to go afar off. Once he was* ***“there”*** *he began to* ***“waste his substance with riotous living”****. And when he’d spent it all, a mighty famine arose in that land; and he began to experience* ***“be in desperate want”****.*

*So the young son went and* ***“joined himself”*** *to a citizen of that country who sent him a Jew; into his fields to feed his swine. But the young man was so desperate that he would have tried to fill his belly with the husks he was giving the swine to eat; but no one would even permit him to do that.*

*How long this went on we don’t know; but the Word says;* ***“when he came to himself”****, he said to himself; “Wait a minute; how many of my father’s servants have more than enough bread while I’m “out here” perishing with hunger? I need to rise up and go find him and say; “Father, I know I’ve sinned against heaven, and before you; I also know I’m* ***“no more worthy to be called your”*** *son; but could you just treat me as you do your servants?”*

*20 So, the younger son arose, and went to find his father; all the time rehearsing in his head what he’d say to try to move him; to check his anger; to negate any unforgiveness or bitterness that might still be festering.*

*But things in God never go quite the way we rehearse them! For 3 unexpected mind-boggling things happened!*

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