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The Father of Those Two Boys ***Luke 15:11-24***

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The father was the Master of the house he stood answerable to God for the well being of his family as dads, we need to realise we are the provider of our family and stand accountable to God. A working man who provided for His family and servants the hired servants had plenty to eat with food left over. Not a good idea not to.

A good father wants to leave an inheritance for his children - physical and spiritual. The oldest son received a double portion but the youngest son wanted his inheritance. What kind of inheritance are we laying up for our children?

The hardest thing to do is let our children make their own decisions. God allows us to choose our own path. If we choose the wrong path we must pay the price, hope that will bring us to our senses. The prodigal son went as far wrong as a person could go:

- he wasted his inheritance
- he sat in a pig sty eating the scraps

This is the place wrong direction will ultimately lead, but there is always a way out. Wayward children always need to know they can come home.

As priest of the family he led the family in the right direction. Led the family in worship. The fathers were to pass their knowledge and experiences on to the children.

When the prodigal son came to himself he remembered his father and most of all he knew his father still loved him.

The fathers offered sacrifices for the family. Fathers need to be the intercessors of the family. If we don't pray for our family, who will?

When the prodigal came home his father was watching for him. He had been interceding in prayer for his son to return home.

Do our children know that we are praying for them?

The prodigal son came home with a repentant heart - he was truly sorry for his actions and was not looking for a hand out to do it all again. Dad's attitude was not

"you brought it on yourself son"; "tough"; "don't come crying back to me"

He had compassion on his son - fathers need to be men of compassion.

He was thankful his son had come home. Honoured his return with a celebration
He restored him back to the family as a son rather than a servant.

He did not show favouritism between the two sons. He loved his older son who had chosen to stay with him. Even though the younger son had wasted his life, his dad still loved him.

Regardless of whether our children choose right or wrong they still need to know dad loves them.

Jesus loves us even when we do wrong and when we turn to him His arms are open to welcome us without hesitation.