

# The Lesson of the Prodigal

by David Wilkerson

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*The sermon teaches that God's love is greater than all our sins and that He leads us to repentance through His goodness.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 1:18, Luke 15:20-21, John 3:16, Romans 2:4, Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:4-5, 1 John 1:9

**Topics:** "God's Love", "Repentance"

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## Description

David Wilkerson emphasizes the profound love and compassion of the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son, illustrating that the son's return was rooted in his understanding of his father's character. The father, seeing his son from a distance, runs to embrace him, prioritizing love over judgment and demonstrating that acceptance comes before confession. The father's immediate response to celebrate his son's return highlights the theme that God's love surpasses our sins, and it is this goodness that leads us to repentance. Wilkerson reminds us that we are accepted by God even before we fully confess our shortcomings, as His love is unconditional and transformative.

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## Transcript

The Bible says, "When he [the prodigal] was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).

I believe the prodigal came home because of his history with his father. This young man knew his father's character--and apparently he had received great love from him. He must have known that if he returned, he wouldn't be upbraided or condemned for his sins.

Notice how the prodigal's father received him in his pitiful condition. The young man was intent on offering a heartfelt confession to his dad. Yet when he faced his father, he didn't get a chance to fully confess. His father interrupted him by running up to him and embracing him.

The young man was only able to blurt out the beginning of his speech, saying, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son" (v. 21). But his father didn't wait for him to finish. To him, the young man's sin had already been settled. The father's only response was to issue an order to his servants: "Put a robe on my son and rings on his fingers. Prepare a feast, because we're going to celebrate. Everyone rejoice--my son is home." He knew his son's heart. He knew he had fully repented.

Sin wasn't the issue to this father. The only issue in his mind was love. He wanted his boy to know he was accepted even before he could utter a confession. And that is the point God wants to make to us all: His love is greater than all of our sins. "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Romans 2:4).

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