

Intro – The parable of the Prodigal Son is, among other things, a story about how God shows His love in ways we can relate to.

How the Father Loves us

When we review this parable, we can see different ways that the father in the story loves his youngest son, and by extension, the ways God loves us:

1. The Father _____

When the son was old enough to make his own decisions (foolish as it was) the father let him make it.

God the Father doesn't make the mistake that some human fathers do which is _____.

2. The Father _____

In the parable it says that the father saw his son returning while he was still a long way off.

Everywhere there are signs of our Father's presence, if we would only open our eyes.

3. The Father _____

It's one thing to "take back" an erring child, it's quite another to restore an erring child.

The Father's gifts to his son in the parable showed how the son was restored:

- He greeted _____

- He felt _____

- He put _____

- The ring _____

- The sandals _____

- The feast _____

The Father restored his sonship _____

Our Father is like this. When we return to Him, He restores us completely as sons and daughters.

- No more _____ Acts 2:38

- No more _____ Galatians 3:20

- No more _____ Romans 8:1

- No more _____ Romans 4-5

- No more _____ I Thessalonians 5:16

In addition to this, the Father also _____

Summary / Invitation

This parable teaches us many practical lessons for fathers specifically and parents in general:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Have you gone away from your heavenly Father? _____

Won't you come back today?