



HOPE: When You Really Need A Miracle - Pt 6

Luke 15:11-24 (NLT)

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Jesus' story of the Prodigal Son is more than a lesson about **God's love**. It also illustrates some powerful principles for parenting. We see **three stages** in this **parent-child conflict**:

I. STAGE ONE: REBELLION

Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and took a trip to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money on wild living. (Luke 15:11-13)

What to do:

1. Let them go.

...the younger son...set off for a distant country...

2. Let them make their own mistakes.

...and there wasted his money in wild living...

3. Let them reap the consequences of their own choices.

...after he spent everything...he began to be in need.

About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything to eat. (Luke 15:14-16)

II. STAGE TWO: RE-EVALUATION & REGRET

When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, "At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I'm no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'" (Luke 15:17-19)

What to do:

- **You Pray**
- **You Commit**
- **You Wait**

III. STAGE THREE: THE RETURN

So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. (Luke 15:20)

What to do:

1. LOVE THEM FAITHFULLY

...his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him...

2. ACCEPT THEM UNCONDITIONALLY

...he threw his arms around him and kissed him.

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3. FORGIVE THEM COMPLETELY

But his father said to the servants, "Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found." So the party began! (Luke 15:22-24)