

# Coming Home: Prayers for the Porch

Pastor Chad Gilligan | October 24, 2021

## I. INTRODUCTION TO COMING HOME

**Luke 15:11-16** Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

## II. THREE PRAYERS FOR THE PORCH

### *1. I Pray that They Will Come to Their Senses.*

**Luke 15:17-20** When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father.

#### **A. This is a situational prayer.**

- The Distant Country is a deceptive place.
- Ask God to help you understand their heart.

#### **B. This is a spiritual prayer.**

**2 Corinthians 4:4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- Pray that the blinders will be lifted and that they will see the light.

## *2. I Pray that I Will be Filled with Compassion.*

**Luke 15:20** So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

**Luke 15:20 (NLT)** 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.

### **A. This is a prayer about your emotions.**

- Is your emotional response about your loved one, or is it really about you?

### **B. This is a prayer about your character.**

- Are you showing your children that you are a person of character?

**Ephesians 6:4** Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

- The Prodigal Son knew his father well enough to know that he could still come home.

## *3. I Pray for the Love of My Heavenly Father*

**Luke 15:22-24** But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

### **A. It is an unconditional love.**

### **B. It is a sacrificial love.**

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- It is in its sacrifice that love has the power to change lives.

- We are all prodigals in need of our Father's sacrificial love to call us home.

**1 Corinthians 11:27-29** So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.