

The Prodigal Son

by

**George
Whitefield**

The Prodigal Son

A

LECTURE

Preached on FRIDAY Afternoon,
SEPTEMBER 11th, 1741
IN THE

High-Church-Yard

OF

GLASGOW,

Upon LUKE xv.

By the Reverend

MR. GEORGE WHITEFIELD.

Taken from his own Mouth and published at the earnest Desire of many of the Hearers.

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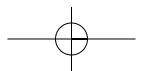
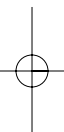
I. The Duty of a Gospel-Minister, *preached Saturday forenoon, upon* Luke iv. 18, 19.

II. The Method of Grace, *preached Sabbath Morning, upon* Jer. iv. 14.

III. The Kingdom of God, *preached Sabbath Evening, upon* Rom. xiv. 17.

IV. The Believers golden Chain, *preached Tuesday Afternoon, upon* 1 Cor. i. 30.

There is in the Press, and speedily will be published, Saul's Conversion a Sermon preached on Saturday Afternoon in the High-Church-Yard of Glasgow. By the Reverend Mr. GEORGE WHITEFIELD.



The Prodigal SON.

A

LECTURE.

LUKE xv. *from the 11th Verse to the End.*

THE Apostle *Paul* informs us, that *it is a faithful Saying, and worthy of all our Acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the World to save poor Sinners.* Our dear redeemer had no other End in coming from Heaven to us, but to place poor Sinners in Heaven again, he led a painful persecuted Life, and died an ignominious Death for our Sake. As this was the End of his Coming, so it was the End of his Preaching; he was continually sounding the glad Tydings of Salvation to poor convinced Sinners, giving all encouragement from their Misery, and at the same time denouncing Wrath against those who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and would not come out of themselves, and lay hold on his Righteousness. For this Purpose the Blessed *Jesus* put forth many instructing

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Parables,

Parables, no less than Three in the Chapter out of which the Words read are taken. Me thinks of all the Parables that *Jesus* ever put forth, that which I have now chosen as the Subject of your present Meditation, if it be lawful to compare spiritual things with, spiritual, it excells other Parables *as one Star differs from another in Glory.* I think it would be an Impeachment on your Judgment, I should think I were acting contrary to Charity, especially in your Country, where I hope ye are better acquainted with your Bibles than others are, than to think you need to

be informed to what Parable the Text belongs, It belongs to that Soul-comforting, Soul reviving Parable of the Prodigal Son, wherein the *Lord Jesus Christ* displays the Compassion of God to poor returning Sinners in the most lively Colours. I pray *God*, by his Holy Spirit, may write it upon the Table of all your Hearts. I intend, then, at this Time to make some Observes upon the whole Parable, and then shall conclude with an Exhortation to you all to come to the dear Redeemer. And I pray *God* that Joy may be in Heaven this Afternoon over some of you, repenting and coming home to *God*.

First

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First then, To make some Observes on the Parable itself I begin at the 11th Verse. And He said, Jesus said, A certain Man had two Sons. By two Sons you are here to understand two different Characters; The *Publicans*, who feeling their Misery were willing to lay hold on *Christ*; and the caviling carping *Pharisees*, who trusting in themselves that they were righteous, despised the Righteousness of Jesus Christ, despised others, crying out with the self-conceited Hypocrites, *Come not near me, for I am holier than you*. I shall first touch at the younger Son.

The younger said to his Father, Father give me the Portion of Goods that falleth to me. We may suppose his Father was a holy pious Man, one that had taken up *Joshua's* Resolution, Whatever others might do, *as for him and his House, they would serve the Lord*. We may suppose he kept up Family-Religion, took Care to breed up his Children in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord: But his younger Son, like some of our young Gentlemen, could not bear so much Restraint upon him, by an old doting enthusiastick Father, he could not bear to have Religion always talkt of in the Family, he thought his Father righteous overmuch impatient of religious Restraints,

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he desires to be left to his, own Heart-Lusts, and therefore said to his Father, Give me the Portion of Goods, that falleth to me. My dear Friends, this is the Tenper of all of us by Nature, we deal thus with our heavenly Father; tho' God imposeth nothing upon us but what is really perfective of our Nature, tho' God bids abstain from nothing but what would hurt us, yet we look upon God as a hard rigrorous Task-master. If we were left to our own choice, we would desire God to leave us to ourselves; the Language of our Hearts by Nature is, *Lord, depart from us, we desire not*

THE PRODIGAL SON

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the Knowledge of thy Law; the Language of our Hearts is, Father leave us to ourselves, But my dear Fiends, ye cannot put up a better Petition, if ye have a Mind to be happy, than this, Lord, however thou deal with us, leave us nor to our own Choice. What this young Man said, we all say. We may suppose it troubled the Father to have such a wicked Child; however, hoping that the Prodigal might yet be reclaimed and mend his life, the Father gave him what he desired, and so divided unto him his Living. You see what we will do, if God Almighty leave us to our own Hearts Lusts, for we are told in the 13 Verse, That not many Days after thy younger Son gathered all together, and

went

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went into a far Country, and spent his Substance with riotous Living. Not many Days after, its taken particular Notice or for he was impatient of Restraint, every Day was a Year while he was in his Father's House; he would have went away immediately, but he staid sometime to get a proper Equipage, suitable to the Quality of the Son of such a Father. Not many Days after he gathered all together leaves nothing behind, that he might be out of his Father's Reach. He took his Journey into a far Country, It's remarkable, the way of Sin is down the Hill, when you begin to sin, ye know not where ye will stop, you will go into a far Country, far from God; he was afraid if he staid longer at home, he would have his Father checking him, therefore he gets out of his hearing. This represents the Heart of a Sinner, he finds Convictions now and then coming upon him, and so would drink and whore, and go on in Sin, on purpose to stifle his Convictions, He went into a far Country, and see what follows, he wasted his Substance with riotous Living. One would have thought he would have stopt before his Goods were all wasted: But my dear Friends, there is such an Infatuation in Sin, there is such a strong Propensity to Sin in our Heart, that with-

out

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out the Almighty Power of God give a Stop to our Will, tho' we know the End of Sin will be Damnation, yet we will sin on, tho' we should be damned. This was the Case of the young Prodigal, when his Substance was wasting, one would have thought he would have stopt before all was gone. But see how God hedged up his Way.

In the 14th Verse we are told, *When he had spent all, there arose a mighty Famine in that Land, and he began to be in want.* Here God was now bringing

a Restraint in order to bring him home. There was not only a Famine but an extraordinary Famine, and then the Prodigal began to be in want. One would have thought that he should have begun to think of coming home, but we will never come to Christ till we think we must be damned without Christ, Christ is beholden to none of us for coming to him. The Prodigal was in want, but we do not hear of his beginning to think of coming home. When People have some few Convictions floating upon the Surface of their Hearts, they begin to see the Evil of Sin; but their Goodness is like a Morning Cloud that passeth away, till Convictions fasten upon their Soul and they see themselves lost. The Prodigal

sees

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sees himself in want, but he would not come home, so long as he can thirst, therefore we are told

In the 15. Ver. *He went and joined himself to a Citizen of that Country, and he sent him into his Fields to feed Swine.* Is there any young Prodigals here that are spending their Patrimony in riotous living, see what this will bring them to. A Man that lives within Bounds, he may have none of these dreadful things to struggle with, that these poor Souls have, that are carried away captive by the Devil. I know it by Experience. Here a young Man finely equipped, with a fine Fortune, see what he is reduced to, was that proper Company for him? *He joined himself to a Citizen of that Country, and he sent him into his Field to feed Swine,* and here he would have been contented to remain, if he could have been kept from Hunger.

We are told in the 16. Ver. *He would fain have filled his Belly with the Husks that the Swine did eat, but no man gave unto him.* O what will Prodigality bring People to. The wise Man says, *By means of a whorish Woman, a Man is brought to a Piece of Bread.* Here he that was used to Variety of Dishes, cloathed in purple and fine linnen, see him now sitting with the Swine, envying the very Beasts of the Husks on which they

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were

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were feeding. He only wanted the Husks, he would be content to be kept from starving without going home. *But no Man gave unto him,* so much as the Husks This plainly shews, when we are coming to Jesus Christ, how God Almighty will make all Ways of escaping good for nothing till we come home to Christ. Now this young Man might think all these Things were against him, but all these Things were intended for him, to bring him home to Christ. So a poor Sinner that is hedged

in on every Way, will think, all is gone; but God is hedging up his Way. Here the poor Prodigal is sitting with the Swine. Methinks I see him. What must he do? he is brought to an Extremity, this was God's Opportunity.

When he came to himself. This is very remarkable. Pray, was the *Prodigal* beside himself, before he looked on his Father as a mad Man, as I believe thousands now look upon the Ministers of *Jesus Christ*, as Fools, Enthusiasts, and mad Men. Thus this young *Prodigal* looked upon his Father. But the Father was the wise Man, and the Prodigal a Fool. You that now mock and scoff at the Ministers of the Gospel, and join with your hellish Companions, ye will be made to cry out, We, not they, were

Fools

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Fools; how are they numbred among he Children of God. O may God bring you to yourselves. Here the Prodigal comes to himself, the Lust of the Eye, the Lust of the Flesh, and the Pride of Life did overcome him; but when God brings you to Death, when God disrobes you of all you have, then you will begin to see what a damnable Condition your Souls are in.

Here says he, *How many hired Servants of my Father have Bread enough and to spare, and I perish with Hunger.* He not only wanted Bread, and began to be in want, he was not only ready to perish, but *I perish*, if I stay here, *with Hunger*. Ye will never come to Christ, till ye see yourselves perishing without him. *I perish with Hunger.* Now the Prodigal begins to consider the dreadful Condition he is in, but if he stop here, he will not come home; however he makes Resolutions, and therefore we are told in the 18. Ver. after he had considered his wretched State, I will arise and go to my Father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son, &c. He saw himself ready to perish, O that some might give me Husks that I may be kept from going home. Well,

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but

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but he must go home. Well, says he *I will arise and go to my Father.* It's remarkable, tho' he had used his Father so ill, he calls him his Father, he had often tried his Father, he had often born with him; it broke in upon his Soul, who knows but my Father may bear with me yet, I am starving here. What will he say? Will he plead Merit? No, he will aggravate what he has done, *I will say, Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before*

thee. This is remarkable, he had sinned against his Neighbour, he had sinned against himself; but what grieves him most is, that he had sinned against his Father, against Heaven; for whatever Harm we have done to our Neighbour or ourselves, it ultimately strikes against God himself. It grieves him that he has offended his Father.

Make me one of thy hired Servants. Some suppose that this last Clause was the Relict of Self-Righteousness in the young Man's Heart. Thinks he, I will go home to my Father, I will ask Pardon for my Sin, but I will not be intirely beholden to him for my Living, I will work a little for it, I will do something for my Bread. O but a Soul must be brought low, before it is brought out of Self. This Self you cannot tell how secetly it works, how much of Self is in

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the best Saints, he was not willing to accept Pardon as a free Gift, no, says he, I will work for it, we would fain have some Hand in our Salvation. Others suppose it was the Result of Humility in him, *Make me as one of thy hired Servants*, Deal with me as thou wilt, only let me come home to thee; for a poor convinced Sinner will say, What shall I do to be *saved*, he would rather be a Door-keeper in the House of God than dwell in Tents of Wickedness. Well, when the Prodigal's Convictions began to fasten, he said he would arise, and we shall find that he actually did arise, in the 21 Ver.

And he arose and came to his Father. But who can tell how many bitter Throws this poor Man felt, what Convictions, what Convulsions his Soul underwent during his returning home. Sinners, you are going away from God, you are wandering into a far Country, but you have got many bitter Convictions before you came again to Jesus Christ. He arose, it is told, he was gone into a far Country, and we may suppose was some time a coming home. Me thinks I see the poor Creature quite destitute, quite he helpless without Cloaths on his Back, with out Shoes, stinking, filthy all over. Methinks I see him walking slowly on, for Sin takes off our Chariot Wheels, and

makes

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makes us drive heavy. Me thinks I see the poor Creature in great Perplexity before he came to his Father's House, Sometimes Unbelief works, It can never be that my Father will forgive such a Wretch as I am, his old Sins stare him in the Face, his Ingratitude stares him, my

Father hath forgiven me often, but he will never forgive me again. Me thinks I see him stepping back and weeping. When we look upon God as our Enemy, that very Look makes us fly from him. We will never come to God, till we look upon him as our Friend. But then, thinks he, if I do not go, I shall certainly perish; but who knows but my Father will receive me. Then Me thinks, I see him step up again; but then Pride of Heart arises, What, shall I stoop before my Fathers Servants? Can I humble myself before my Father's Gate, it's better to perish here. As many a Sinner when under Convictions, and has not got a Sense of Pardon, would rather be damned as come to *Jesus Christ*, But at last, well, thinks he, I will go, it is better to do the meanest thing with shame, than to perish here; at last he gets up and has many a weary Look, many a Fear, many a Lash of a self-condemned Conscience, at last he comes to the Gate of his Father's House, *He arose*

and

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and came to his Father, fearing and trembling lest his Father would not look upon him. But see the Heart of God to poor dejected Sinners, to self-condemned Sinners; see the Love of God toward poor, repenting Sinners, we are told, *When he was yet a great way off his Father saw him, and had Compassion on him, and ran, and fell on his Neck and kissed him.* Surely never Man spake as the Man *Christ Jesus*. I believe never was so much Action expressed in so few Words. *When he was a great way off*, perhaps the Father was praying in the Field, or meditating as *Isaac*, that his Prodigal might come home, putting up a Prayer to God, *O that Ishmael might live before thee.* And perhaps when he was praying, he turns his Head, and sees his young Prodigal coming home. The Prodigal does not advance any further, Unbelief kept him back, I dare not approach him any more; like a poor Sinner convinced of Sin, he dares not lay hold on Christ, tho' God bids him. Here the Father turning his Head, sees a poor Creature quite disfigured, without Cloaths, without Shoes, he wonders who it is, he looks again, and at last says, There are some Features of my Child. God can see all his Elect, tho' they are weltring in their Blood. One would have thought, when

he

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he saw him, he would immediately go to the House, and bid the Dogs bark at him, and command the filthy Wretch to be gone to his Whores, and spend his Substance in riotous Living. No, instead of that, *When he*

saw him, he had Compassion on him, his Bowels yerned toward him, his Heart was ready to dissolve within him, like *Joseph*, when we are told his Bowels yerned over his Brethren. Old as he was, *he ran*, he saw his Prodigal unwilling to come, O thinks he, I will run and meet him. And when a poor Sinner is made willing to come, when he is about to come, God will send his Spirit to fetch him home. *He ran to him*, one would have thought he would say, Go wash thyself and then I will kiss thee, No, the Father *ran*, and in an Extasie of Love *fell on his Neck*, he threw himself on his Neck, filthy as it was, he speaks not one Word, but shews his Love, his Actions speak for him, with open Arms he embraced his filthy Son, Welcome my Child, wellcome home there is not one Word, of Reflection. No, when you come to God, God will blot out all your Transgressions, he will freely forgive your Sin, and your Iniquities he will remember no more. Well, one would think that the Prodigal should have for-

got

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got his Purpose, My Father hath forgiven me, I need say no more. But where ever God comes in a saving way to a poor Sinner, the Sinner is filled with such a Sense of his Sin, that tho' God forgive him, he cannot forgive himself.

Here the Prodigal says in the 21 Verse *Father I have sinned against Heaven and in thy Sight, and I am no more worthy to be called thy Son*. This shows us that we must confess Sin, even after we know that our Sins are forgiven, that is sweet Humility that results from a Sense of God's Love. I appeal to you that know Christ, if it is not the sweetest Hours with you, after ye have received Manifestations from God, a breathing of God in your Soul, you feel your Souls melting, dissolving in Love, and throwing yourselves at the Feet of sovereign Grace, Why me, Lord, why Me? And the more God pours in upon you, the more lowly ye are in your own Eyes. O that is a sweet Time when the Soul is laid low, and dissolved with a Sense of God's Love. Methinks I see the Prodigal amazed that the Fathers should have thus embraced him. Says he, *I have sinned against Heaven, and in thy Sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son*. How is it that thou dost

G

kiss

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kiss me? O what sweet Expressions, what sweet Fellowship is there between Jesus Christ and a precious Soul, when Christ is visiting that

Soul with his Love! He would have went on, and said, *Make me as one of thy hired Servants*; but the Father would not let him go on with his Confession, and therefore we are told,

In the 22. Verse. *Then he said to his Servants*, in the plural Number, not to one Servant, but to all of them, to show the haste he was in to help his poor Son, Make haste to welcome my dear Child home. The Father said to his *Servants*. One would have thought he should have said, Go make this Prodigal be gone, no, but *bring forth the best Robe, and put it on him, and put a Ring on his Hand and Shoes on his Feet. Bring forth the best Robe*, The Prodigal was willing to be like a hired Servant, any Thing would be good enough for him. No, he must have a Robe, not only a Robe, but the belt Robe, the Robe which his Father wore on high Days, the best Robe in all the House was not too good for such an ungrateful Child. The Father might have told him, see what thou hast lost by thy Prodigality; no, it must not only be fetcht out, but *put upon him*. Not only so, *but he must put a Ring* on his Hand, to distinguish his Quality.

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It appears he had no Shoes on his Feet; and the Father cannot bear that, then says he, *Fetch out Shoes*. And to show how glad he was, and that nothing was too dear for him, says he, *Bring hither the, fatted Calf and kill it, and let us eat and be merry*.

But what are you to understand by this belt Robe? It is the Robe of Christ's Righteousness, it is a Robe weaved in the Blood of Christ, a Robe that could not be purchased without Christ shed his precious Heart-Blood. If you see that you are naked, that you are undone poor, miserable, blind, helpless Sinners, God will put his Robe upon your naked Soul, God will apply Christ's Righteousness to your Heart, so that you shall be made to say, *The Lord is my Righteousness*. Did the Father put a Ring upon this young Man's Hand? So God shall seal you for his, by his Spirit, till the Day of Redemption; God shall put his Spirit into your Heart, and by this shall all Men know that you are God's Children, Sons and Daughters of the Lord Almighty. Did the Father put Shoes upon this young Man's Feet? So shall your Feet be shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Did the Father kill the fatted Calf? Did the Prodigal feed upon this fatted Calf? So shall God

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feed

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feed your Soul with a hidden Life, a divine Life, a Joy that Strangers intermeddle not with. You shall feel God in your Heart, ye shall feel Christ in your Soul. Did the Servants make merry? were they glad? So shall God the Father communicate the News of your Conversion to the Angels above, and there will be joy in Heaven over your Repentance and coming to Jesus Christ. O methinks I see these blessed Spirits flying round the Congregation, tuning their Harps, and longing as the Hart panteth after the Water Brooks, to sing an Anthem at some of your Conversion. Methinks I see them longing to ascend the heavenly Ladder, and join the heavenly Quire, saying, some precious Souls were dead, but God hath made them alive; they were lost to God, lost to Jesus Christ, but God hath breathed into them the Breath of Life, and they are now become living Souls. O may God grant that this may be the Angels Song this Afternoon concerning some of you. I believe God intends to come among you this Day. I believe Jesus Christ intends to bring some of you home. O that there may be a whole Congregation coming together. There is Blood enough in Christ for you all.

I must touch a little upon the

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Brother, and return to the younger Brother, for I do not love his Character. One would have thought, all should have rejoiced at the Prodigal's coming home, but what can please a self righteous Person God himself cannot please him. We are told *his elder Brother was in the Field and as he came and drew nigh to the House, he heard Musick and Dancing.* Before I go forward, give me leave to tell you who (because Musick and Dancing is mentioned) may think it lawful to dance and have Balls. But my dear Friends, such things are as much contrary to the Gospel of Christ as Light is to Darkness. And whatever you may think, if God ever touch your Heart, and make you new Creatures, you will be sick of these things, you will no more be present at a Ball or Assembly, then you will thrust your Head into the Fire. I speak this by Experience. No one hath been a greater Sinner that Way, than that poor Creature that is preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to you. May a precious Hour and Night have I spent this way, and thought it no Harm, as ye may do; I went to the Sacrament, I kept Fasts before the Sacrament, I thought it no Harm to go to dancing for all that. But my dear Friends, take Warning, it hath cost me many a Tear, many a gloomy Hour

to

22

to reflect upon the many precious Hours I have spent this way, and I am amazed that God did not send me to Hell. Take Warning by me, it cost me many a bitter Hour, as it will cost you it ever ye come to God. You may, put off Convictions now; but when Death takes hold of your Soul, you will see Things in another Light, you will be amazed to think that you should be deceiving your own Souls. Take Care of these Things, they will eat out the Vitals of Religion, and if these things be encouraged in *Scotland*, they will eat out Religion.

He called one of his Fathers Servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy Brother is come, and thy Father hath killed the fatted Calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. It's remarkable what the Servant said, *Thy Father hath received him safe and sound.* Why was the Prodigal safe and sound? He was naked, no Cloaths upon his Back, no Shoes upon his Feet. It is because when we come to God, when he views us in the Holiness of Jesus Christ, he looks upon us as tho' we had never sinned at all; we are safe and sound, having on the Righteousness of Christ. One would have thought he would have gone in and rejoiced over his Brother; No, *he was angry, and would not go in.* So

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the Pharisees were angry with Jesus Christ for conversing with Sinners, *Therefore*, we are told *his Father went out, and entreated him.* How does God deal with the Perverseness of self-righteous Sinners! But he answering, said to his Father *Lo*, he introduces what he had to say with *Lo*, for we love to magnify every thing we do. *Lo, these many Years do I serve thee:* We love to make the most of what we do, *these many Years*, he aggravates every thing he did, and lessens every thing God did. Observe how often he brings in the little Word, *I, neither transgressed I at any Time thy Commandments, and yet thou never gavest me Kid to make merry with my Friends.* See how he finds Fault with his Father! A self-righteous Person finds Fault with every Thing that God does. *Neither transgressed I at any Time thy Commandments.* This shews the Foolishness of these that boast of their own Righteousness. He was just doing now like the Pharisee, I thank God I am no unjust Person; when he was boasting that he was not unjust, he was committing the most unjust Action in the World to Judge a poor Publican, was not that unjust? See how he reflects upon

his Father and upon his Brother, *But as soon as this thy Son*, he would not own him to be his Brother, *thy Son*, I will

not

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not call him my Brother, *which hath devoured thy Living with Harlots*; see how he magnifies it, he casts Reflections on the young Man who was casting Reflections enough upon himself but he magnifies them all. *Thou hast killed for him*, an ungrateful, wicked, wanton Prodigal, *the fatted Calf*. See the Forbearance of God, *He said unto him, Son, all I have is thine*, for even self-righteous Persons shall have a Share, Whatever Difference there may be betwixt us and others, there is no Difference by Nature, we have all finned and fallen short of the Glory of God We should never see a poor Drunkard, but we should say, there is my Picture if God leave me to myself. *This is therefore thy Brother that is come*.

I told you I would return to the younger Brother again. I fear there are too many of us angry at Ministers for preaching free Grace and inviting to Jesus Christ. But my Friends, my Prayer to God is, that this Parable may be fulfilled in your Heart. I hope God intends to do Good to your Souls this Afternoon. Are there none of you that feel yourselves damned? We are all lost, estranged from God by Nature, legally dead, and have no more Power to come to God of ourselves than the Bones you are sitting

upon

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upon have Power to come out of the Grave. The great Question is, which of you feel your Inability to save yourselves. We have all been Prodigals, God put a Stock into our first Parents Hand, who spent that; we are all Bankrupts, and will be undone without the Lord Jesus Christ. Which of you, or how many of you can say, *I will arise and go to my Father*, I will arise and go to my offended God, *and I will say to him, Father I have sinned against Heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son*. Do you find powerful Convictions fasten upon you? Do you find your own Blindness and Darkness? Are you bewailing and weeping over the Miseries of a corrupt Nature? Come then, do not fear. The Devil will strike in, and will tell you God will not accept of you, the Day of Grace is over. But behold how God's Bowels yern over you, God sees you when you are yet a great Way off, he saw you from Eternity, he had Compassion on you he sent the Lord Jesus Christ to work out a Righteousness for you. Be what you will, be who you will, as many of

you that fear you are damned, as many as are willing to accept of Salvation by a crucified Jesus, God is unspeakably more willing to receive you

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than you are to receive him. For Jesus Christ's Sake do not stay, come in your Filth, damned as you are, God will give you Kisses of Love, God will embrace you in the Arms of his Mercy. This Robe of Christ's Righteousness that was purchased by the Blood of Jesus Christ, by the Death and Obedience of a bleeding God, shall be applied to you Souls. You shall have Peace with God, Joy in the Holy Ghost, you shall feast upon the fatted Calf, the invisible Realities of another World. Thus shall it be done to all that come to Jesus Christ. O Come to the Waters of Life, drink freely, be what you will, if you have Legions of Devils, if you have Millions of Devils in your Heart, come away, the Blood of Jesus Christ is infinitely great, it will wash you white as Snow. O think on the Love of God. God the Father so loved the World that he gave only begotten Son. O then, I pray you be reconciled to God. Jesus Christ saves the chief of Sinners? The Lord Jesus Christ has had Mercy upon me. Are you Sinners? So am I. Are you the chief of Sinners? So am I. Are you backsliding Sinners? So am I, the worst of Sinners, if left to myself I should have outdone you all, and yet Jesus Christ had Mercy upon me.

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O my dear Friends, O my guilty Brethren, come away to Jesus Christ, be espoused to Jesus Christ, I know what it is to be a Prodigal, I know what it is to live in Sin, but Sin hath left a Damp upon my Soul, and tho' God hath forgiven me, I can never, forgive myself, and I cannot go away without some of you coming to Jesus Christ, and let me not go and tell God, Lord, I have called them to thee, but they would not come. O my dear Friends, come to Jesus Christ, were you as black as Hell, you are welcome. Will you crucify the Son of God? Will you rather perish in your Sins and be damned? Christ is the only Way, the Truth, and the Life, no Man cometh to the Father but by him. O my dear Friends, methinks I would go, if God should enable me, to Death for preaching the everlasting Gospel. But I do not Care to go to Heaven without some of you, there is Blood enough in Christ's Heart, there is Blood enough in the Wounds of Christ, there is a Fountain opened for all Uncleaness. Did you once know what it is to be clothed with the

Righteousness of the Son of God, you would be sick of Sin and of every Thing but Christ, O then shall I prevail with some of you to come to God has sent a poor Stranger to

call

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call you home. You poor, abandoned Prodigals, you are welcome to Jesus Christ, you are welcome to the Redeemer, if you will come to him. What do you say? Will you give him Welcome? Let there be joy in Heaven over your Repentance. I know you cannot come of yourselves. Are you willing to come? O then, God shall send his Spirit to bring you home, and meet you halfway. O my dear Friends, I believe God is working upon some of your Hearts, I feel his Power, I hope you feel it. This is an accepted Time and Day of Salvation. May the Lord bring up your Soul, May Jesus give a Blessing to what is said. Tho' this be the Foolishness of preaching, do not cry out against me for preaching Christ that hath forgiven me all my Sins. I cannot help inviting poor Sinners to come to Christ. May he sanctify you by his Spirit, fill you with his Grace, and after Death bring you to his Glory.

FINIS.



THE PRODIGAL SON

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