

***Worship Alive Plus!***

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Series C**

***Worship Alive Plus!*** Is designed to be adaptable in planning

Contemporary, blended, and “fresh traditional” worship.

The Scripture readings are the assigned readings for the day taken from the

Revised Common Lectionary @ Augusburg Publishing House

The Liturgy and *Sermon Starters & Seasonings* are written by the writers of

Worship Alive Plus! @ WorshipOutlet

**Theme – “The Father’s Heart” (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)**

In the presence of Pharisees and sinners, Jesus shared the parable of the lost son, who went away and foolishly lived a selfish life leaving him with no friends, no money, and no food. In shame, the son returned with his head hanging low. But his loving father, who was waiting in anticipation for his return, undignifiedly ran to meet his beloved son, greeting him with kisses. He clothed his son in fine clothes, prepared a celebratory meal, and welcomed him home. The older brother felt much different and didn’t understand why such a celebration was taking place for his foolish brother. His father explained that he was once dead, but was now alive again! We can pick out the similarities between the Pharisees and the older brother, the lost son and the sinner, and we can imagine ourselves much like these characters or perhaps the Father. Either way, we are reminded that Jesus extends an invitation into the Kingdom family to the Pharisees and the sinners, and we should imitate the Father’s heart, extending our arms open to those who are willing to return to the Lord.

**✝ We Lift Our Hearts in Worship ✝**

[Preservice options include video countdowns, worship song videos, welcomes), CDs, or live music.]

**Welcome & Time of Greeting**

**Time of Praise and Worship**

**This is Amazing Grace**

Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, & Phil Wickham, ©2012 Bethel Music (Admin. by Bethel Music Publishing) Phil Wickham Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Seems Like Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Sing My Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Warner Chappell Music (Admin. by Unaffiliated Admin (UA))

**Reckless Love**

Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, Ran Jackson, © 2017 Watershed Publishing Group (Admin. by Watershed Music Group) Bethel Music Publishing, Richmond Park Publishing

**Who You Say I Am**

Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan, © 2017 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

**[Traditional Options]**

**Come Thou Fount of Ev’ry Blessing**

BH75 12,13; BH 91 15, 18; CH 11; CHH 16; EH 686; ELW 807; HS98 876; HWC 2; HPW 4; HFG 318; HLC 28; HGP 9; HSP 16; LBW 499; LWB 686; NCH 459; PH 356; RH 11; STTL 51; WC 45; UMH 400; WAR 68; WHM 30; WIS 62

**I Will Sing My Maker’s Praises**

LSB 9 **The King Of Love My Shepherd Is**

BH 75 215; CH 683; EH 645/646; ELW 502; HWC 468; HLC 46; LBW 456; LSB 709; LW 412; NCH 248; PH 171/174; UMH 138; WIS 425

77; LW 439

**Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

BH 75 213; BH 91 61; CH 688; CHH 558; EH 708; ELW 799; HWC 462; HPW 53; HFG 601; HLC 321; HGP 369; LBW 481; LSB 711; NCH 252; PH 387; RH 611; STTL 578; WC 522; UMH 381; WAR 440; WHM 542; WIS 489

**Invocation**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Welcome and greetings in the name of the loving Lord, Jesus Christ.*

**Worshipers**

**We request the Lord’s favor and presence.**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Let everyone and everything that has breath- praise the Lord!*

**Worshipers**

 **Praise the Lord!**

**Opening Prayer / Theme Introduction**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Heavenly Father, we are Your children. We enter Your presence as sons and daughters. We are just vessels ready for You to use as You see fit.*

**Worshipers**

**We are Yours.**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Renew our hearts and minds right now as we begin this time of worship. Align our hearts and minds to Yours. Amen.*

**Time of Confession and Forgiveness**

*[Alternate location: following Message]*

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Great and mysterious is the Father’s love for His children.*

**Worshipers**

**His love knows no bounds.**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Even as sinners, we are welcomed.*

**Worshipers**

 **Father, forgive us of our sins.**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Through Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to the perfect Father.*

**Worshipers**

 **Jesus is perfect and unblemished, and He was made to be sin for us.**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Because of Christ, we have become the righteousness of God!*

**Worshipers**

 **We don’t deserve this act of love. We praise the Lord for He is a good, forgiving Father. Amen!**

**✝ We Hear God’s Word ✝**

[Read aloud both the introduction and Scripture]

**First Reading Joshua 5:9-12**

*The Israelites celebrated the Passover while camped at Gilgal. Soon, the manna would disappear, and they would eat the produce of the Promised Land.*

**9**Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day. **10**On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. **11**The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. **12**The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

**Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

*In Christ, we are made new. God imputed our guilt and sin to Christ who was sinless and blameless. In the same way, God imputes the righteousness of Christ, not our own, to all who believe in Jesus. Therefore, God regards believers as forgiven and treats them as forgiven people, reconciling us to Himself. Wow- what a testimony- to once be condemned as a sinner and now legally declared righteous through the blood of Christ!*

**16**So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19**that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20**We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. **21**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

*In the presence of Pharisees and sinners, Jesus shared the parable of the lost son, who went away and foolishly lived a selfish life leaving him with no friends, no money, and no food. In shame, the son returned with his head hanging low. But his loving father, who was waiting in anticipation for his return, undignifiedly ran to meet his beloved son, greeting him with kisses. He clothed his son in fine clothes, prepared a celebratory meal, and welcomed him home. The older brother felt much different and didn’t understand why such a celebration was taking place for his foolish brother. His father explained that he was once dead, but was now alive again!*

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2**But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”**3**Then Jesus told them this parable:

**11**Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. **12**The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. **13**“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. **14**After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15**So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. **16**He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. **17**“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! **18**I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19**I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ **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. **21**“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22**“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. **23**Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. **24**For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. **25**“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. **26**So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. **27**‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ **28**“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. **29**But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. **30**But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ **31**“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. **32**But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

**Response Songs**

*[Alternate location: following Message]*

**Nobody Loves Me Like You**

Ed Cash & Scott Cash, © Alletrop Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) S. D. G. Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Remaining portion is unaffiliated

**Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)**

Chris Tomlin, John Newton, & Louie Giglio, ©2006 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) sixsteps Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Vamos Publishing (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

**Jesus Friend of Sinners**

Mark Hall & Matthew West, ©2011 My Refuge Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing), Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (Admin. by Sony/ATV Songs LLC), External Combustion Music

**[Traditional Options]**

**Amazing Grace**

BH 75 165; BH 91 330; CH 343; CHH 546; EH 671; ELW 779; HWC 202; HPW 33; HFG 107; HCL 288; HGP 206; HSP 186; LBW 448; LSB 744; LSB 744; LW 509; NCH 547; PH 280; RH 230; STTL 85; WC 502; UMH 378; WAR 422; WHM 429; WIS 212

**Chief of Sinners Though I Be**

ELW 609; LBW 306; LSB 611; LW 285

**Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness**

HFG 268; HLC 241; HWC 193; HFG 268; HLC 241;LBW 302; LSB 563;LW 362; WC 481; WIS 126

**Message**

**“The Father’s Heart”**

*“Sermon Seasonings” provided at the end of this service*

**✝ We Respond to God’s Word ✝**

[Optional location for Confession/Absolution]

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Good is our God and deserving of all praise. We proclaim our faith in Him!*

**Worshipers**

**We believe in God who created us, sustains us, and gives us life. He is good!**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God, who points us to the Father. He trusted His Father even unto death, and resurrected to bring us eternal life. He is good!**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit whom resides in us, our bodies are His temple. He gives us life and fills us with good fruit. He is good!**

**We believe in Father God, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit who are three-in-one. Amen!**

*[Alternate Suggestions]*

**We Believe** Matthew Hooper, Richie Fike, & Travis Ryan, © Abundant Life Ministries UK (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing (IMI)) Integrity Worship Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing (IMI)) Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing (IMI)) Travis Ryan Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing (IMI))

**This I Believe (The Creed)** *Ben Fielding & Matt Crocker, ©2014 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin by Capitol CMG Publishing)*

***-OR-***

*Speak the historic* **Apostles’ Creed***or***Nicene Creed**

**Offerings**

*[Choose an unused song from elsewhere in the service, or program Special Music by worship team, choir, or soloist]*

**✝ We Pray ✝**

**Prayers**

*[Worshipers appreciate the sincerity of informal, heartfelt prayer, in a simple prayer language they can use in daily life. These starters are offered to help facilitate spontaneity.]*

**Prayer Topic Starters**

* Gratitude for the community in which you live
* Gratitude for your work
* Gratitude for your trials that strengthen you
* Prayer for spiritual strength
* Prayer for your neighbors, siblings, parents, children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*[Consider singing the Lord’s Prayer on occasion, a capella or with accompaniment]*

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

 **For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*[A Communion option is provided for churches celebrating the Lord’s Supper]*

**✝ We Celebrate the Lord’s Supper ✝**

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

**We Prepare**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Friends, would you join me in celebration of this Holy meal? We celebrate our risen King Jesus! In Luke we read that Jesus sat with his disciples and dined with them. Taking the bread, He blessed it and broke it and shared it with his friends. Their eyes were opened to see the Lord.*

**Worshipers**

 **As we receive this bread, Your broken body, open our eyes to see You.**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Jesus also took the cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”*

**Worshipers**

 **As we drink of the cup, we rejoice in the celebration of the New Covenant.**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *Nourish us with Your body and blood, Lord Jesus, we pray in Your name…*

**Worshipers**

 **Amen.**

**Words of Institution**

**Music During Communion**

**Redeemed**

Benji Cowart & Michael Weaver, ©2011 Word Music, LLC (a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.) Weave Country (Admin. by Word Music Group, Inc.)

**Come to the Table**

Ben Glover, Ben McDonald, Dave Frey, © 9t One Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Ariose Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Dayspring Music, LLC (Admin. by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.) Pencil Prophet Publishing (Admin. by Word Entertainment, LLC) Run Run Milo (Admin. by Word Entertainment, LLC)

**No Longer Slaves**

Jonathan David Helser / Brian Johnson / Joel Case, © 2014 Bethel Music Publishing (ASCAP).

**[Traditional Options]**

**I Come, O Savior, to Your Table**

LBW 213; LSB 618; LW 242

# **Just As I Am**

# BH 75 186,187; BH 91 303,307; CH 488; CHH 339; EH 693; ELW 592; HWC 342; HPW 40; HFG 417; HLC 260; HGP 221; HSP 300; LBW 296;LSB 570; LW 359; NCH 207; PH 370; RH 275; STTL 343; WC 445; UMH 357; WAR 354; WHM 497; WIS 232

**Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus**

EH 495; HLC 95; UMH 325

**Dismissal Blessing**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *May the tremendous peace of the Lord Jesus Christ dwell in you richly.*

**Worshipers**

**May His peace dwell in our hearts and our minds.**

**✝ We Depart in Peace ✝**

**Benediction**

*Pastor / Worship Leader*

 *We have been found by Christ, no longer lost. We have been welcomed with open arms. Let’s open our arms to the sinners we know and lead them to our good, good Father.*

**Worshipers**

**He is a good Father, indeed!**

**Closing Song**

**Glorious Day** (Passion)

Jason Ingram | Jonathan Smith | Kristian Stanfill | Sean Curran, © Sean Curran Publishing Designee (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Sixsteps Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Fellow Ships Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Hickory Bill Doc (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

**You Alone Can Rescue**

Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman, ©2008 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) sixsteps Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Said And Done Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) SHOUT! Music Publishing (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

**The Way**

Ben Smith | Daniel Bashta | Pat Barrett, © Heritage Worship Publishing (Admin. by Bethel Music Publishing) Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Housefires Sounds (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Go Forth Sounds (Admin. by Heritage Worship Publishing) Bread & Wine Sounds (Admin. by Watershed Music Group)

**[Traditional Options]**

**Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways**

ELW 772; LBW 480; LSB 707; LW 392

**It Is Well With My Soul**

BH 75 339; BH 91 410; CH 705; CHH 571; ELW 785; HWC 493; HPW 55; HFG 495; HLC 401; HGP 316; HSP 131; LBW 346; LSB 763; NCH 438; RH 433; STTL 554; WC 519; UMH 377; WHM 524; WIS 70

**The King Of Love My Shepherd Is**

BH 75 215; CH 683; EH 645/646; ELW 502; HWC 468; HLC 46; LBW 456; LSB 709; LW 412; NCH 248; PH 171/174; UMH 138; WIS 425

***SSS* – *S*ERMON *S*TARTERS & *S*EASONINGS**

*These ideas are intended to provide material and stimulus for your own creativity*

**“The Father’s Heart”**

***Luke 15:1-3, 11-32***

*In the presence of Pharisees and sinners, Jesus shared the parable of the lost son, who went away and foolishly lived a selfish life leaving him with no friends, no money, and no food. In shame, the son returned with his head hanging low. But his loving father, who was waiting in anticipation for his return, undignifiedly ran to meet his beloved son, greeting him with kisses. He clothed his son in fine clothes, prepared a celebratory meal, and welcomed him home. The older brother felt much different and didn’t understand why such a celebration was taking place for his foolish brother. His father explained that he was once dead, but was now alive again! We can pick out the similarities between the Pharisees and the older brother, the lost son and the sinner, and we can imagine ourselves much like these characters or perhaps the Father. Either way, we are reminded that Jesus extends an invitation into the Kingdom family to the Pharisees and the sinners, and we should imitate the Father’s heart, extending our arms open to those who are willing to return to the Lord.*

**Theological Reflections and Practical Applications**

It was early September of 2001.1

I had assigned the “parables of the lost” (Luke 15:1-10) for the practicum in biblical interpretation at the seminary where I teach. We started by sharing our experiences of losing things. We came up with the inevitable lost keys and even lost pets, but the stories of the extravagant joy of the characters in the parables seemed over the top. After all, the celebrations for the friends and neighbors cost more than the lost items were worth.

A few days later the attacks of 9/11 happened, and following them, the news reports of posters and photos captioned with things like:

“LOST: MY WIFE SUSAN. SHE WORKED ON THE 93RD FLOOR OF TOWER #1”

“HAS ANYONE SEEN MY BROTHER MIGUEL?”

“OUR DADDY IS MISSING!”

All too rarely, there would be celebrations when someone was located. The armor of our privilege had been pierced, and suddenly we understood the parables. When the class met again the following week, our conversations about the text changed.

These parables and the one about the two sons (15:11-32) follow teachings on discipleship (14:25-35), and the parables are Jesus’ response to grumbling by the religious leaders about Jesus’ indiscriminate welcome to “sinners.” The examples — a pair consisting of a male shepherd and a female with her dowry coins — are people with limited resources.

The sheep is a precious resource for which the shepherd would be responsible to the owner if it should be found missing, and the coin part of the limited personal wealth of the poor woman who is keeping her own house or working for another. (Such dowry coins were the only “insurance,” should the woman find herself without her husband as a widow or divorcee.)

Leaving aside the “reasonable” point (at least from the point of view of people for whom the missing sheep was simply one among many) that leaving the other sheep to fend for themselves while he searched for the missing one was irresponsible, the contagious joy expressed in exactly parallel terms when the lost items were found makes clear their value. In the same extravagant way, the religious leaders are to understand, God rejoices when a sinner is welcomed back into the community.

Yes, following 9/11 we could get now that those lost were precious, but they were missing through no fault of their own. Not so the sinners: they did it to themselves, didn’t they? Perhaps not, since poverty and the demands of survival often resulted in poor people living outside the demands of Torah for Sabbath rest and ritual purity. But what about moral sins? Would those sinners be part of God’s yearning to welcome them home? The third of the parables in Luke 15 addresses that concern, in the story of the two sons.

The story is well known. The obedient elder son lives responsibly in his father’s household, doing his part in the running of the family estate of which the lion’s share will belong to him after the father died. The younger brother, who would get only a smaller portion of the estate as his inheritance, asks for his share while the father is still alive. He is almost wishing his father dead! And he is removing himself from the household, for legally he would no longer have any rights to the property or even to its use. Like a sinner whose actions remove him from the community, the younger son is no longer part if the family’s story.

The story continues to detail his “prodigality” — wasteful and lavish spending — after he left home. Though the customary title of this parable as the “prodigal son” makes that behavior the focus of the story and the basis of his need to beg forgiveness, in fact the damage had been done when he asked for his money. That traditional title also masks the fact that the story tells of **two** sons who become lost to their father. The gracious father welcomes the younger son back into the family, running out to greet the young man instead of waiting for the son to come to him, then giving him a robe, ring, and sandals, which are symbols of his status as heir once again. Then he throws a lavish party for the son and his friends, much to his brother’s chagrin.

We tend to focus on the lavish welcome offered to and accepted by the younger son, but the story of his restoration is framed by the story of the “loss” of his elder brother. That obedient son went about his work, but when he learned of the party already underway, he scolded his father for not following the rules, and for letting the “little brat” (I’m following the elder brother’s implied perception) come back home with no demand for restitution. The younger one “was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found” (15:32). The father offers a gracious blessing to the elder son: “all that is mine is yours” (15:31), but we do not learn whether he accepts his father’s generous spirit or whether he remains “lost.”

The word from this parable to the religious leaders in their reluctance to welcome sinners is clear. But what happened to the class’s reading of the parable in light of the experiences of those lost on 9/11? We found ourselves in the story as both brothers and as the religious leaders to whom it was addressed. We could appreciate the joy at the restoration of life to the younger brother, without asking about his moral worthiness, just as we rejoiced at every story of life and act of heroism by first responders.

Distinctions and feelings of preference and disdain for various groups among the victims and survivors were absent. But we joined the elder brother in not being able to accept the possibility that even those who perpetrated that terrible act might receive God’s joyful welcome to the feast.

**Source:** Sharon H. Ringe, <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/fourth-sunday-in-lent-3/commentary-on-luke-151-3-11b-32>

**Quotations**

“God’s love gives in such a way that it flows from a Father’s heart, the well-spring of all good. The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious; as among ourselves we say of even a trifling gift, “It comes from a hand we love,” and look not so much at the gift as at the heart.” -Martin Luther

“For each of us, life is a journey. Heavenly Father designed it for us out of love. Each of us has unique experiences and characteristics, but our journey began in the same place before we were born into this world.” -Henry B. Eyring

“When God plans to bless a man, he takes this poor time-cursed creature into His hand and says, ‘My son, I breathe into you eternity and immortality.’” -A.W. Tozer

“God is our loving Father who loves his children perfectly. So every part of his word is an expression of his love to us.” -Jennifer Rothschild

“No matter how big you get…you’ll ALWAYS be my son.” -Max’s Dad, Goofy; A Goofy Movie

**Illustrations**

A young man was to be sentenced to the penitentiary. The judge had known him from childhood, for he was well acquainted with his father--a famous legal scholar and the author of an exhaustive study entitled, "The Law of Trusts." "Do you remember your father?" asked the magistrate. "I remember him well, your honor," came the reply. Then trying to probe the offender's conscience, the judge said, "As you are about to be sentenced and as you think of your wonderful dad, what do you remember most clearly about him?" There was a pause. Then the judge received an answer he had not expected. "I remember when I went to him for advice. He looked up at me from the book he was writing and said, 'Run along, boy; I'm busy!' When I went to him for companionship, he turned me away, saying "Run along, son; this book must be finished!' Your honor, you remember him as a great lawyer. I remember him as a lost friend." The magistrate muttered to himself, "Alas! Finished the book, but lost the boy!"

Source: *Homemade*, February 1989.

There's a Spanish story of a father and son who had become estranged. The son ran away, and the father set off to find him. He searched for months to no avail. Finally, in a last desperate effort to find him, the father put an ad in a Madrid newspaper. The ad read: Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Your Father. On Saturday 800 Pacos showed up, looking for forgiveness and love from their fathers.

Source: *Bits & Pieces*, October 15, 1992, p. 13.

**Video Resources**

**John Piper The Love of God Sermon Jam**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu32onttI-c**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu32onttI-c)

**The Prodigal**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_WBbGFlkl0U**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WBbGFlkl0U)

**CITED RESOURCES FOR**

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Updated for 2022

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[**www.GodVine.com**](http://www.GodVine.com)

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[**www.LeadWorship.com**](http://www.LeadWorship.com)

[**www.LifewayWorship.com**](http://www.LifewayWorship.com)

[**www.PraiseCharts.com**](http://www.PraiseCharts.com)

[**www.WorshipTeam.com**](http://www.WorshipTeam.com)

[**www.WorshipTogether.com**](http://www.WorshipTogether.com)

[**www.YouTube.com**](http://www.YouTube.com)

**HYMNAL CODES**

**BH75** Baptist Hymnal *(1975)*

**BH91** Baptist Hymnal *(1991)*

**CH** Celebration Hymnal *(Word)*

**CHH** Chalice Hymnal *(Chalice)*

**EH** Episcopal Hymnal *(1982)*

**ELW** Evangelical Lutheran Worship *(Augsburg)*

**HPW** Hymns for Praise and Worship *(Word)*

**HFG** Hymns for the Family of God *(Paragon)*

**HLC** Hymns for the Living Church *(Hope)*

**HGP** Hymns of Glorious Praise *(Gospel Pub House)*

**HSP** Hymns of the Spirit *(Pathway)*

**HS98** Hymnal Supplement 1998 *(Concordia)*

**HWC**Hymnal for Worship & Celebration *(Word)*

**LBW** Lutheran Book of Worship *(Augsburg)*

**LSB** Lutheran Service Book *(Concordia)*

**LW** Lutheran Worship *(Concordia)*

**NCH** New Century Hymnal *(Pilgrim Press)*

**PH** Presbyterian Hymnal *(1990)*

**RH** Rejoice Hymnal *(Tempo)*

**RS** Ritual Song *(G.I.A.)*

**STTL** Sing To The Lord *(Lillenas)*

**TFWS** The Faith We Sing *(Methodist supplement)*

**UMH** United Methodist Hymnal *(1989)*

**WC** The Worshipping Church *(Hope)*

**WOV** With One Voice *(Augsburg)*

**WAR** *Worship and Rejoice (Hope)*

**WHM** *Worship His Majesty (Gaither)*

**WIS** *Worship in Song (Lillenas)*