

The Story of the Prodigal Son

One day Jesus told a story that teaches us what we should do after we have done something wrong.

There was a man who had two sons. One day the younger son said to his father: "Father, give me my share of all you have." And the father divided his money between the two sons.

A few days later the younger son took his money, left his home, and went into a strange country far away. There he made new friends and tried to have a very good time. The friends he chose were bad and taught him to do many evil things. He lived there for a long time, trying to enjoy himself by doing many wicked things. At last all the money that

Now the young man found himself alone, hungry, without friends and without any money. He began to look for work, but the only kind of work he could find was watching over a herd of pigs in muddy fields.

Then one day the young man said to himself: "Here I am, hungry and unhappy. In my father's house there are many servants who work for him and have plenty to eat. I have behaved so badly that I am not worthy to be my father's son anymore. But I can ask him to let me come back to become one of his servants.

He got up and started on his journey home. He was feeling very hungry and miserable and thinking all the way how he would ask for forgiveness from his good father.

He was still a long way off from his home when his father saw him. The father felt so sorry for his son that he ran out to meet him. He hugged him and took him home. He did not scold his son for all the bad things he had done. The son said: "Father, I have behaved too badly to be called your son!" But instead of answering him, the father said to the servants: "Bring the best clothes for my son. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Prepare the very best dinner for us. We shall have a

feast and be happy because my son who was lost is found again."

When the older son came back from the fields, he heard music and dancing in the house. He called one of the servants and asked him what had happened. He learned that they were feasting because his younger brother had returned home. He was not pleased. He thought: Had not the younger brother behaved badly and left his father's house while he, the older brother, stayed at home like a good son and did all the work? But when the father heard that the older son did not want to join them, he came to him and said: "My son, you have always been with me. All I have is yours too. But today we are glad because your brother was like one dead, and he is alive again; he was like one lost, and he is found again."

We are all God's children. When we are bad and do wrong, we behave like the younger son, who left his father. What should we do to make things right again? We must come to our Father and tell Him that we are sorry. Then He will receive us gladly, just as the father in the story received his son.