

The story isn't saying that every sinner reaches the level he did, but when sinners do repent, grace always triumphs.

But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,
Romans 5:20

“ ‘Bring the fattened calf, kill it, let's eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead, has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’
vs. 23, 24

The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.
Psalm 51:17

The one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. John 6:37

“He covers us with a robe of righteousness.” Isaiah 61:10

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path.
Galatians 6:1



Dan Wilvers- February 5th, 2017 Part 5

How God Forgives Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:13–24

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 men 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 men.’ 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.”
This is God's Word

I. God's forgiveness is unconditional

In Mark 11, Jesus says, “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him ...”

In Matthew 18, Jesus says, “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault ... If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.”

In **Matthew 5**, it says, "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

II. God's forgiveness is sacrificial

The son has wronged the father two ways:

A. Financially- That's the reason why when the son comes back, he says "... make me like one of your hired men." vs. 19c
He wants to pay back the financial debt.

B. Shamed his father's name- That's the reason he says...
"I am no longer worthy to be called your son ..." vs. 19b
He's trying to repay the cultural debt.

This part of the parable has but one meaning:

Jesus He is telling us how God's forgiveness works and by extension how our forgiveness needs to work with people who have wronged us.

How is forgiveness sacrificial?

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him." vs. 20

- **He runs towards him.**

Why? He wants to reach his son before his son reaches the village.

Why? To protect him from the shame he'll get there.

This is the essence of what it means to forgive somebody.

Either you can make them pay or you absorb it.

In other words, either they pay or you pay.

III. God's forgiveness is an inside job.

How did the father forgive?

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him vs. 20

He felt compassion.

Not just compassion for his past sin, not just compassion for his present filth - and he was in rags and smelled like a pig - but compassion for the shame he was about to experience.

The word "compassion" is "*splagchnizomai*", comes from a Greek root that means "your intestines, or your bowel or your abdomen." He felt a sick feeling in his stomach when he saw the boy, and knew he was headed toward this unleashing of scorn.

"And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' vs. 20

What's missing? Go back to verse 19, he left out the last one, "Make me as one of your hired men."

Pastor John MacArthur says: *Because the father is so eager, he receives, and embraces, and reconciles with the son before the son can say anything. And so when the son does speak, he leaves out the works part.*

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. vs.22

When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. 5 But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

Romans 4:5