

# LUKE 15:11-32

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Jesus tells three stories of lost things in a chapter to illustrate God's grace in finding what is lost as they are unable to 'save' themselves. The younger son asks for his share of the inheritance. He wishes his father dead, and leaves home and family far behind as he travels to another land. He loses his identity as his father's son.

When all inheritance has gone, a severe famine hits. He feeds pigs, an animal classed as unclean by the Jews. This was as low as things could get. Even the pigs carob pods are indigestible to humans. He decided he would be better as a servant in his father's house, so begins to rehearse his plea to his father on the way home. The words "I have sinned" in Greek mean "I have no share". He is not so much repentant as desirous of having a roof over his head and food in his belly.

It is clear the father has been looking out for him every day, and finally he sees him from afar. He does something no elder would: he runs to meet the son. He quickly orders the reinstatement of the young man to "sonship": the sandals that declare he is no slave, the robe that speaks of security and belonging, and finally the signet ring of the family's authority. The father completely restores him, and he finds his identity and purpose once more.



## 01 — Repentance and the challenge

When God challenges you, do you do what is necessary just to make things right or are you repentant in the true sense of the word. What other scriptures come to mind when you think about this?



## 02 — Unconditional

How do you feel when you receive unconditional grace and love?



## 03 — Practising what (Clare) preaches

In what way are we squandering our inheritance or are not making good use of the gifts we have been given?

