



What is God's plan for us?

Luke 15: 11-32

Someone had two sons...

2 Cor 7:10

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Salvation (sozo) has a special meaning.

1. Deliverance, security, preservation, salvation, freedom from the nuisance of enemies.
2. Salvation as the present possession of all true believers.
3. Future salvation, all of the blessings that believers redeemed from all earthly evils, after the visible return of Christ from heaven, will enjoy in the eternal Kingdom of God.

The prodigal son, an example to us.

There are three phases in the story of the youngest son who leaves his home and father.

Phase 1

The son leaves the father and his home.

- He thinks he has everything, but he loses everything.
- Then he thinks back to what he once had and now has lost.
- There is no security and provision.
- He is alone.
- Everything ultimately leads to a failure in his plan to be happy and explore the world.

Where Does God's Plan Begin?

The youngest son says to himself: "I will get up and go back to my father."

He realizes that he has sinned against his father and against God. He turns around. Metanoein means to convert. You change direction by making a decision. It starts with a change in your thinking! This change in thinking is followed by a decision to return.

The youngest son sincerely repents of his actions and humbled himself by returning to his father.

Phase 2

- The son returns to the father.
- The father is waiting and despite what happened still gives his love, but above all his grace.

What Are the Effects of Grace?

You get something you cannot earn: remission of your sins and the punishment that comes with it.

- Grace sets you free of judgment and guilt.
- Grace helps you get rid of shame.
- Grace helps remove fear of rejection and a heart of stone (numbness).
- Grace breaks down the wall of separation between you, your loved ones and God.
- Grace restores you to the family you lost.

The father is an example of God

- He is always looking and waiting for His children.
- When they return He is ready.
- He waits in love and grace to restore them.
- The father speaks no punishment or condemnation.
- He is glad that the prodigal son has come home.
- The father clearly shows that the son is very welcome and forgiven.





Phase 3

- The son is given clean clothes, a ring and shoes.
- A feast is prepared to celebrate that the son has returned.

What are the consequences of justice?

Righteousness means standing right before God. Righteousness is doing God's will.

The son receives **new clothes** as the first sign of recovery. At the cross, the clothes were taken from Jesus and distributed to others. When Jesus died for us, our old natural clothes were taken off. Jesus makes us righteous through His death and gives us new spiritual clothes.

Clothes make the man, and they often express what our identity is. The youngest son changes his clothes that he had worn as a herdsman and was given clothes that belong to a restored son.

The ring given to him was a sign of restoration of sonship and authority. Not only do you belong, but everything that is the Father's is yours. The house is home again. All the good things that are with this father are now accessible to the son.

A feast speaks of the abundance, the good, the blessing and the joy. God clearly shows here once again that feasts are important to Him.

Steps to Recovery

We discover the plan that God has for us. His heart is that every human being is restored to live in relationship with Him and to find and live in God's plan.

- 1. God showed the way through the example of Jesus, then Jesus opened the door to this life with God. He is the door to enter that world. Through His death, He has dealt with the greatest enemy in our lives. Through His act of obedience, through his death, He has given us the opportunity to be set free and live in the Kingdom of God.*
- 2. He has given all opportunities to be healed. Physically and inwardly. It is possible to heal the pains of life through Christ and, like the youngest son, come home to the Father and use those healed pains to help others.*
- 3. By faith you have total recovery. Jesus gives you this opportunity. It is possible to live in that directly, because you receive a new heart.*
- 4. Your behavior will adapt to the words and nature of Jesus. This is often a process. A process that all great leaders in the Bible also had to go through.*
- 5. By being born again you are sanctified and justified.*

PRAYER

Father, I realize that I have lived as a slave to sin. Because of this I lost everything. Above all, my relationship with You as a Father.

Today I decide to return to You, to my spiritual home. Forgive me for not being a son or daughter to You. That I didn't treasure Your love as most important in my heart.

Help me to return to You and the promises of recovery.

Thank you for Your grace to be restored and healed!

