

# THE PRODIGAL SON

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"SCRIPTURE"  
Series



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# The Prodigal Son.

WHEN Jesus was on earth He went about teaching the people and explaining to them many things about religion, and sometimes when the people could not comprehend all that Jesus meant He spoke to them in parables, or stories.

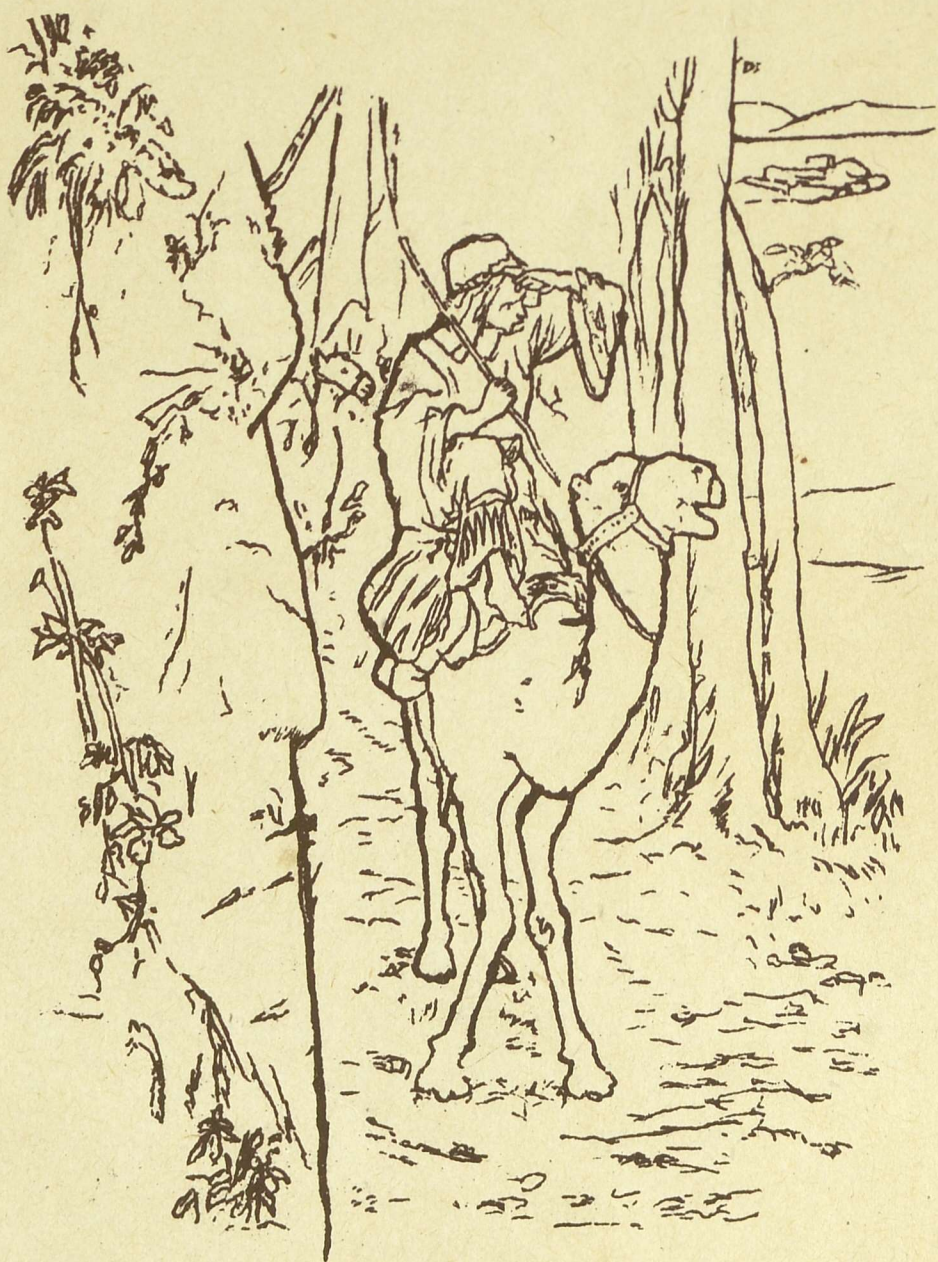
In His teachings Jesus told the people that He came down upon earth to help and save sinners, and once when some of the Pharisees, those Jews who thought more of the forms of worship than of God, accused Him of being seen with sinners, He said, "There is more





joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance." Jesus wished to impress this truth on the minds of the people, so He told the parable of "The Prodigal Son."

A certain man had two sons, and the younger of them said to his father: "Give me the portion of goods that falleth to me," and the father divided unto them his living. Not many days after, the younger son gathered all together and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

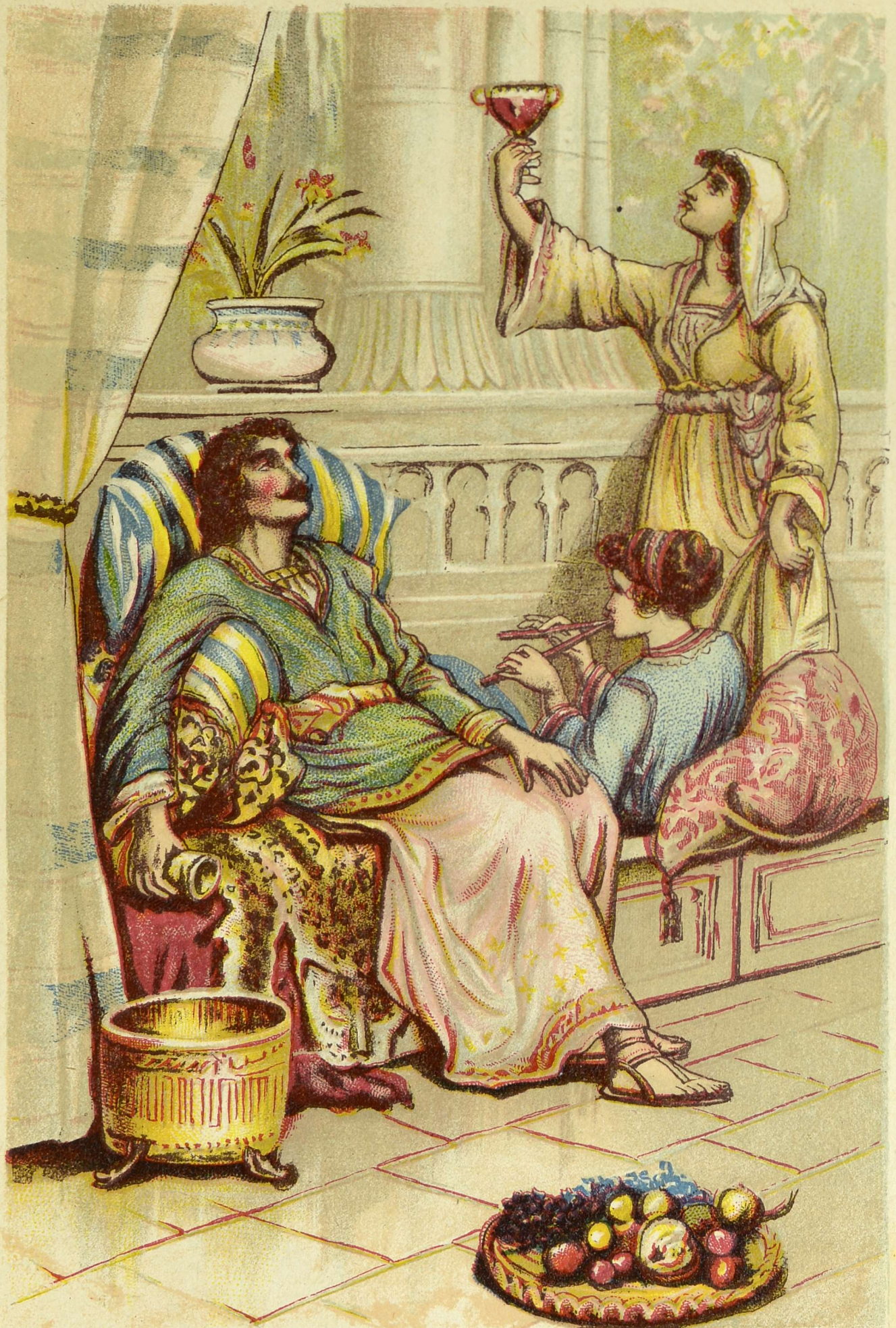




And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled himself with the husks that the swine did eat; and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said: "How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger. I will arise and go to my father." And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was a great way off, his father saw him,







*The prodigal son among evil companions.*





and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said unto him: "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." But the father said to his servants: "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring hither the fatted calf and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew nigh to the house he heard



music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him: "Thy brother is come, and thy father has killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound." And he was angry and would not go in; therefore came his

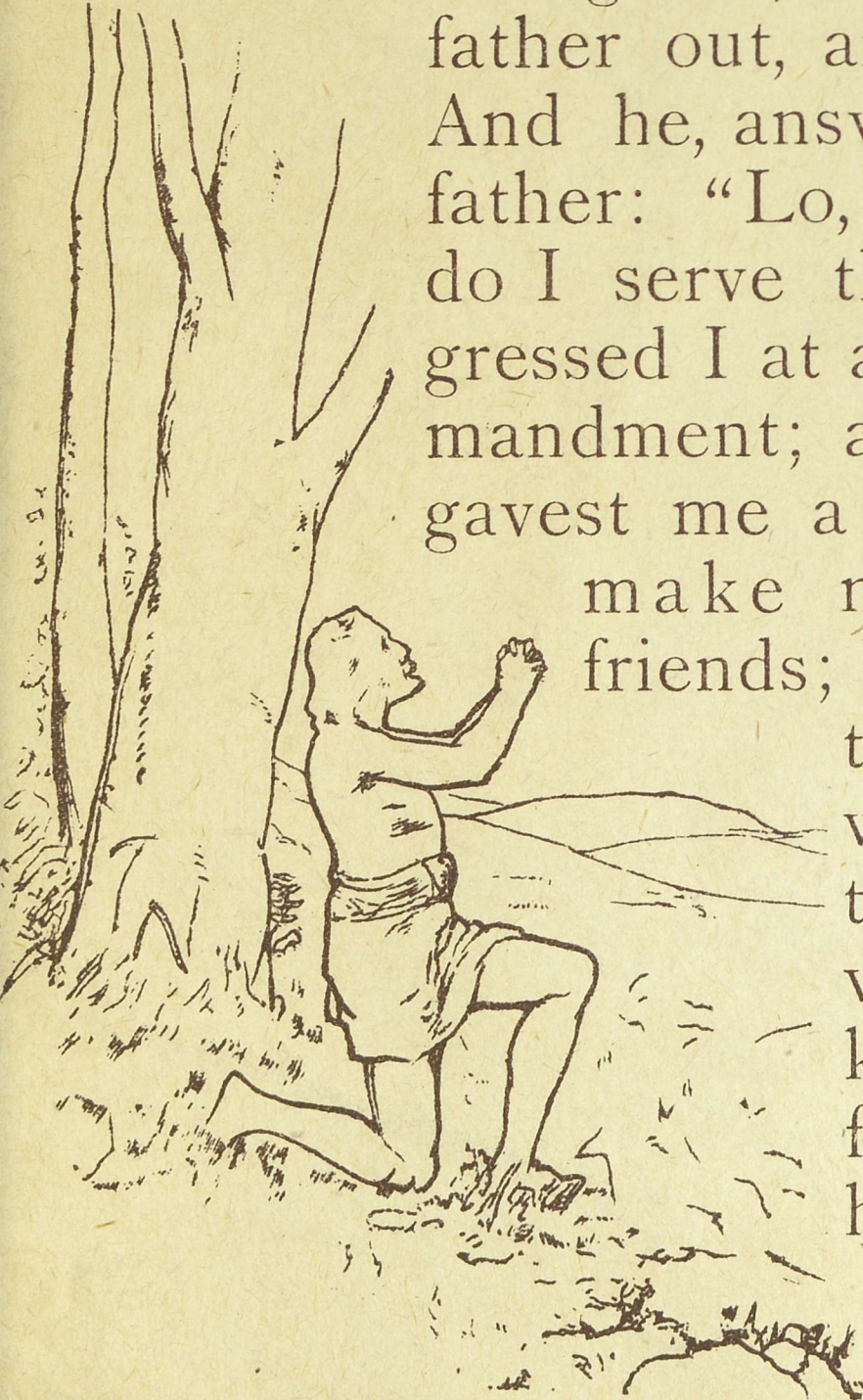
father out, and entreated him.

And he, answering, said to his father: "Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment; and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might

make merry with my friends; but as soon as this

thy son was come, which has devoured thy living with the wicked, thou has killed for him the fatted calf." And

he said unto him:







*The prodigal son and his father.*



“Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry and be glad; for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost and is found.”

Jesus taught by this parable that we must ever be willing to aid those who show a desire to lead better lives, and that when those who are sinful repent we should rejoice with them to show how glad we are that they are anxious to give up their sinful ways and become better men and women.

In the parable of “The Prodigal Son,” God is the father, and the bad and good people are the







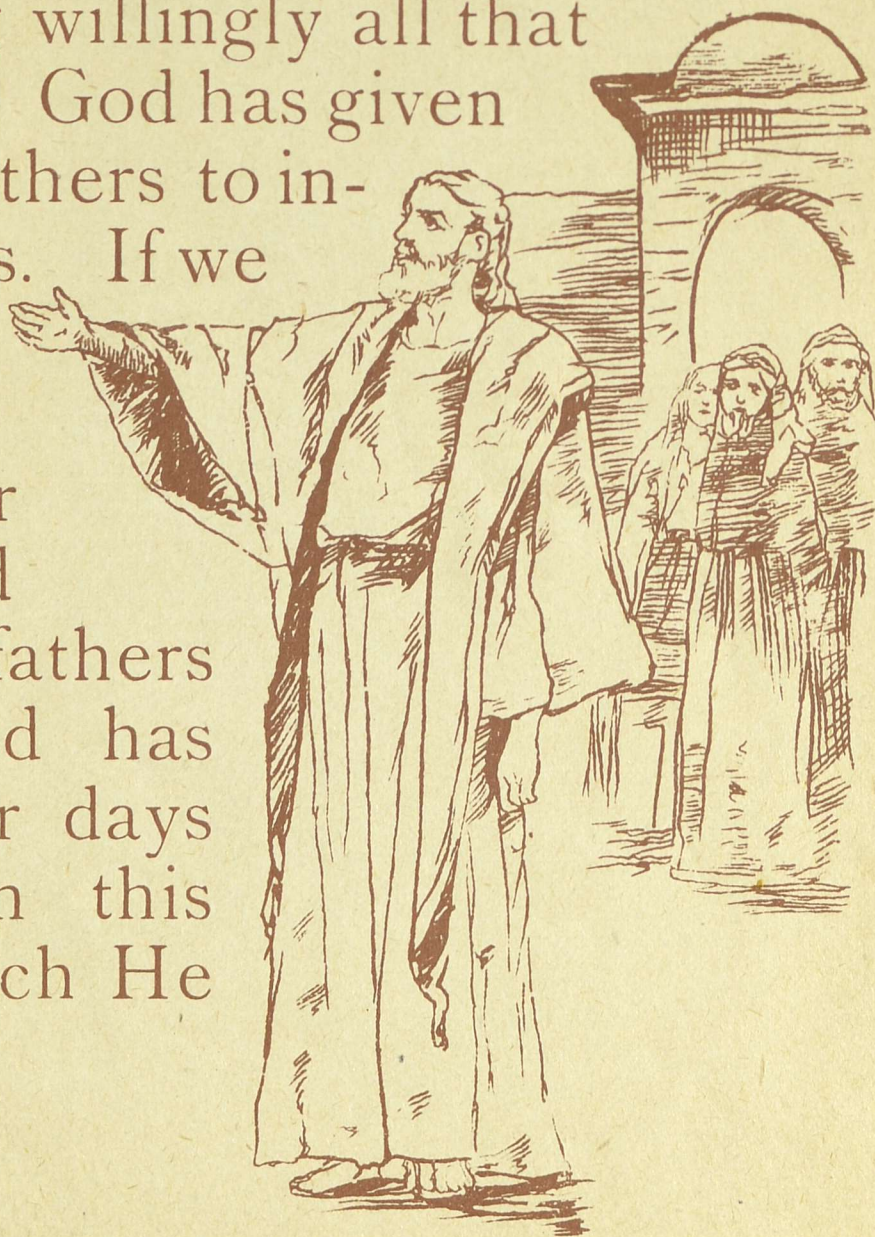
two sons. The bad people go out into the world and wrongfully spend all their time and money in enjoying themselves, while the good people worship God and try to live as He wishes. We

should be very, very happy when someone, whom we know, comes to God, asking pardon and promising to lead a better life.

God will welcome anyone who comes to Him asking for pardon, just as the father welcomed the prodigal son, and if we have done wrong, we should go at once to Him and say: "Father, I have sinned," and God will forgive us, whatever our sins may be, for Jesus said: "Though thy sins be as scarlet,



they shall be whiter than snow." There is another lesson that we may learn from this story, and that is to make the most of our opportunities. We should never waste a moment in the pursuit of useless pleasures, but ever be doing something that will be of benefit to us later. In His commandments, God said honor thy father and thy mother, and we should, first of all, obey our parents, doing willingly all that they require of us. God has given us fathers and mothers to instruct and guide us. If we hope to be useful men and women we must do as our elders tell us, and if we honor our fathers and mothers God has promised that our days shall be long in this beautiful life which He has given us.







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