

You gotta read this. It is the best short story ever

Bible passage

Luke 15: 11-32 *Parable of the Lost Son*

18 I will get up and go back to my father. I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven. And I have sinned against you. (NirV)

Devotion

Many consider the parable of the lost (prodigal) son as the best short story ever told. Jesus tells this parable after the Pharisees and religious leaders accuse him of welcoming and eating with sinners.

The parable begins with a young man (represents sinners), the younger of two sons, who asks his father (represents God) to give him his share of the estate. The parable continues by describing how the younger son travels to a distant country on a self-discovery mission. He lost all his money in wild living. He lost all his values because he practiced free sex. He lost all his dignity because a Jew who looked after pigs was condemned by his fellow countrymen. His urge to eat the food of pigs was the lowest point to which a Jew could stoop. Furthermore, he also lost his right and claim to be acknowledged as a son.

The young man had bumped his head very hard. But there was one thing he could not lose—his father's love. This time, the young man did not long for what was in his father's hand but what was in his father's heart. The story's turning point is in verse 17, when he came to his senses. He decided to confess his sins to his father and to God. His father welcomed him back and threw a huge party. This parable tells us that God will always forgive you – no matter what you have done. Jesus wanted to tell the Pharisees that Jesus loves sinners (but not sin).

Prayer

Lord, help me to be honest in confessing my sins to You and to others.

Today's Quote

The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works.

—Saint Augustine

the father's heart