

"And he (the prodigal son) arose and came to his father. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and had compassion on him, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."
Luke 15:20

John Newton's hymn *Amazing Grace* contains these familiar words: "I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see." The reference to seeing is taken from the story of the blind man Jesus healed (John 9:25), whereas the reference to being found is taken from the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:24).

Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son is one of the most poignant in the four Gospels. It is a story of mercy – the story of an undeserving son who received the compassion of his father after abusing his privileges as a son. Though the son deserved the father's judgment, he received the opposite: love, forgiveness, reconciliation, and reunion. Whenever judgment is replaced by mercy, there is a price to be paid if reunion is to be realized.

If there has been a break in one of your relationships with a friend or family member, consider paying the price of extending mercy. Such a reunion demonstrates what God has done for each one of us.

Pastor Godfrey