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# Campbell Chapel

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Sermon by Bob Bradley



# The Day Came

*Sunday, August 5, 2018*

Bob Bradley

We are going to read from the gospel of Luke, chapter 15 this evening. This is a very familiar story. The Lord put it on our heart and we are going to do our very best to talk about some things that are there.

Life has issues. I say that a lot. Life has problems. Sometimes we bring our problems on ourselves. We know that. Sometimes we have problems just because it is life, just because we are here. Because we have a body that is dying. Because we live in a world full of sin, a world that hates us and hates Christianity and hates the God of heaven, the God that we serve. There is going to be issues and there is going to be problems. Do you know what? We do have a God that takes care of us. We do have a God that helps us. We do have a God the blesses us.

Always keep something in mind folks. When we get through the battle and the struggle that we are having today; there will be another one. There may be some times that we have times where we are on top of the mountain. Do you know what? In this life, we do not spend much time at the top of the mountain. We are either going up or we are going down. Many times, we have life that is full of struggles.

I learned something a long time ago; that I am not going to allow the struggles and the problems and all the sin that is here in this life to steal the joy that I have in Christ. I am not going to do that. I am not going to do that. I am not going to allow all the issues that comes, everything we have to deal with every day in life; I am not going to allow that to steal the joy that I have in Jesus Christ.

Because do you know what I know? I know, first of all, that I belong to Him. I know that I am in the hallow of His hand. I know that He is taking care of me. He knows exactly what is going on in life, in my life and in your life before it ever gets to us. It does not surprise Him not one bit. Amen! ...when it gets to us. I am so very glad that when we will just trust Him every day, wake up every day, every morning and purpose in our hearts that we are going to trust Him and follow Him that day then life is so much easier. We will have issues. We will have problems. We will have heart aches. We will have pains. We will have sorrows. We will have disappointments. Sometimes it all comes crashing down. Sometimes we do not know which way to turn but we have a God that always takes care of us. I appreciate Him tonight so very much.

I have one thought on my mind. I am going to read this story, but the thought is "The Day Came." There was a day that came for this fellow that we are going to read about. "The Day Came," and we are going to talk about that tonight just for a minute. "The Day Came."

In life, sometimes there are days that come that are not good days. There are days that come that are not what we would like to be but there are also days that are just perfect. Is there? We thank God for that.

This is a very familiar story tonight. Probably, I know that when you read the heading in your Bible and you read any kind of a book or commentary, or anything about the parable or stories; you will find out that this story is labeled the prodigal son.

The word *prodigal* means *someone that is wasted, someone that is very extravagantly just wasting and throwing away something, going through life and just wasting life.*

Well, as I read this story, it would probably be a lot better title for this story is about the Great Love of Almighty God. There is probably not a story in all the Bible, any greater than this story how that God loves us even when we rebel. God loves us and God will forgive us and God will accept us. However, there is one thing about all of that and that is if we could convince the world of this then we could change the world. We will talk about that in a minute.

The Bible says this in verse 11...

Luke 15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

Luke 15:12 And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And he divided unto them *his* living.

Luke 15:13 And 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.

Luke 15:14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

Luke 15:15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

Luke 15:16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

Luke 15:17 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!

Luke 15:18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

Luke 15:19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

Luke 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Luke 15:21 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.

Luke 15:22 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:

Luke 15:23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry:

Luke 15:24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

The Bible tells us here, when you go back to the first part of the chapter that there were publicans and sinners here. That Jesus, and there were Pharisees, scribes, and they murmured; they were making the accusation and the charge against Jesus that He received and ate with publicans and sinners.

Do you know what? I am glad that He does that. Do you? I am glad that Jesus Christ eats with publicans and sinners. You know! I am glad that He has not excluded us from His great plan. He talks about a sheep that was lost. He talks about a lady that had a lost a piece of silver and how that the shepherd leaves the 99 and goes and searches for the one. He finds it and puts it on his shoulder and brings it home. Not only that but the lady who lost the piece of silver; she goes and sweeps the house until she finds it.

However, He mentions in verse 10 about the rejoicing that is in heaven over one sinner that repenteth. When people get right with God then there is rejoicing. Heaven rejoices when people repents. Heaven rejoices when people gets right with God. The untold millions of angels, that are in heaven tonight, rejoice when people repent and praise God.

If you repent tonight, and praise the God of heaven; there is going to be millions and millions of angels praising the Lord and rejoicing. It would be just a great, great time if you would get saved tonight.

This story this evening we want to talk about just for a few moments. The Bible talks about a man. He talks about a fellow here that has two sons. In this story, we know that this story, this parable is talking here when it speaks about a man, it is talking about God. God is the man in this story. It speaks about him having two sons.

I thought today as I read and thought awhile about this story and what is going to take place. We have read this story many years, but there are some things that we thought about that we never thought much about. The Bible says in verse 12...

Luke 15:12 And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And he divided unto them *his* living.

You know, you don't read there that this young man said, "Please." You don't read here anything about this young man that he is even trying to be polite, or he is trying or

asking any questions. “Hey, dad/father, if you will give me the portion of goods that was going to come to me when you die anyway is this going to make it hard on you. Is there going to be a hardship here? Is there going to be issues?” He was not worrying about that. This young man was not worrying about anything. He just wanted something. He said, “Give me.”

We live in a world today that they are saying, “Give me.” Do you know what? It is not, give me salvation. It is not, give me more about the God of heaven. We live in a world today that when this world expects something—they expect someone to take care of them. Someone to provide for them. Someone to give them money. Someone to pay their bills. Someone to give them a cell phone. They are looking for all kinds of things. However, I wish we could get the world today, to understand and to see what they really need today. They really need the Lord, Jesus Christ in their life.

I don’t know how old this young man was. I don’t know how old his other brother was. I don’t know how old his dad was. I don’t know what kind of business they had. I don’t know anything about all of that. However, I know that there was one father and he had two sons and the younger came and said, “Hey, I want what is going to come to me when you die, when you are dead and gone; when it comes time to settle the estate—I want that now. I want what is coming to me and what you owe me. I want that now. What I am going to get when you are dead and when you are in the grave, when you are pushing up daisies, then I want that now. I don’t want to wait.”

The Bible says this as you read on down through there.

Luke 15:12 And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And he divided unto them *his* living.

Do you know what this father did? Do you know what he knew? Where his young son was at; he understood that his young son did not want to stay under dad’s roof any longer. He did not want to listen to the instruction that came from father. He thought that he knew best. He thought he knew what was best for him and his life.

Do you know what I found out in life? I do not always know what is best. I do not always know the direction I need to go. I am so very glad tonight that we have a heavenly father that knows exactly what we need. He knows when we need it. Do you know what He will do? He will provide everything we need.

Luke 15:13 And 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.

The Bible says he goes into a far country. It does not tell me how far he went. It does not tell me where this country was at. However, he gathered everything he had. He gathered his inheritance. He probably packed his bags. Do you know what? I don’t know and it does not tell me here; he probably does not tell anybody at the house that he was leaving. He did not tell anybody bye. Do you know what he wanted to do? He

just wanted to get away from the leadership and the discipline of his father. He did not want to listen to him any longer. He wanted to go. He wanted to do his own thing. He wanted to be his own man.

Listen. When you walk away from God today, there is a day coming. I want you to understand that. There is a day coming that things are going to change. You may think that you have it all figured out. You may think that you know what you are doing. However, when you walk away from a loving heavenly Father, then there is a day coming and when that day comes, it is going to be a day that is not going to be a pleasant day.

This guy here has no idea what he is doing. He absolutely does not know where life is going to take him. All he knows is that he does not want to be under the leadership and the rule and under the roof of dad. Amen!

I can remember many years ago. I had a job. I made my own money. I remember—listen, when I was 17 or 18 years old, when I went to the army and got back out and came back home; do you know what I thought? I thought I knew it all. I thought I had it all figured out. I got a good job and bought this car; a brand-new car. I thought I am going to go home and pack my bags and leave. That is exactly what I did. I thought dad and I thought mom; they were the craziest people in the world, I thought. They did not know what I needed. They did not know what I wanted to do in life. They were too hard on me. They did this and they did that. However, do you know what I figured out? I wasn't gone just a few days. I figured out—I had to start washing my own clothes.

Listen. I had to start cooking my own meals. I had to start getting myself up. Listen. Things change quickly. Just a boy that thought everything and I knew everything; it did not take me long that dad and mom in some areas wasn't quite as crazy as I thought they were.

This young man here—there was a day coming that he was going to wake up. There was a day coming that things were going to change. The Bible says that he took his inheritance. He gathered up everything he had. Do you know what? When he left—in my own mind—he was probably saying good riddance; I will never be back here.

However, listen. When you walk away from the God of heaven, you are walking away from the greatest thing that man could ever have. You are walking away from a God that loves you, a God that cares about you, a God that will take care of you if you will just let Him.

The Bible says that he goes into a far country. Again, I do not know how far that was.

Do you know what I know today? I know there are people sitting in the pews. They are living in a far country. I know people today, that we all know that are in our families, our friends; who has not gone a long distance but they are a long way from God. They have walked away from God.

This young man, the Bible says; he goes into a country, a far country and he begins to waste his living, everything that he has. His money and everything he has got. Do you know what he does? He wastes on very loose immoral living.

Do you know what? That is what the world, that is what the enemy wants you to think. He wants you to think that you do not need God. Be your own-self. Do your own thing. Follow your own mind. Do what you want to do.

Listen. That is the greatest bondage that a man can ever get in is doing what he wants to do all the time. Because—listen—we do not know the direction. We do not know what we need to do. We do not know what tomorrow holds. Do you know what?

Listen. If we will listen to the voice of Almighty God, and follow Him then He will take care of us and He will guide us and direct us away from any hog pens if we just let Him. Amen!

That is what happened. He wasted all. Loose. Immoral. Living. Living extravagantly. Passing out hundred-dollar bills probably. Giving tips. He had a whole lot of money. He pulled out and probably was really proud of it. He was really proud of what he had and maybe the car he was driving, or the transportation that he had, or all the stuff that he brought with him. He has all kinds of friends, no doubt. They are all around him. Things are going fine for a while. He is wasting his money. He is living a very loose life. He is probably having parties. He is probably going to all kinds of places that he should not have been going. He is wasting everything that his father had worked for, everything that his father had worked for and given him. Now here is a guy that is going to be wasting it all.

Luke 15:14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

Get this. The Bible tells us here while he is in a far country, he begins to be in want. There is a famine that came in the land. There was a natural disaster that happened. He probably never ever thought that was going to take place, when he waved bye to dad, when he waved bye to the people that were home, if he even did that; when he said, good riddance I will never be back here. He never thought there would be a disaster come. He never thought there would be a famine come. He had no idea of that. However, do you know what he did? He woke up one day and he was in want. The Bible says here that all his money is gone. All his friends are gone. Do you know why? Because he walked away from the God of heaven. He said, "No." to God. "I don't want God to rule in my life. I don't want you to watch over me and take care of me. I want to do what I want to do."

Listen. You can do that if you want to, but there is a day coming. You get that. You remember that. There is a day coming that you are going to change your mind.

This young man woke up one day. He did not have anything to eat. He looked at the hogs and what they were eating. Do you know what? The Bible said he would have filled his belly with the husks the hogs did eat...

Luke 15:16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

He was hungry. He was starving. He had nothing to eat.

Listen to me tonight. When you turn your back on the God of heaven, when you no longer say, "I am going to follow you." When you say, "No longer, Lord, you are going to rule. You are not going to be the Lord of my life any longer."

We have people today, battling the God of heaven on record scales. There is a day coming, my friend, there is a day of reckoning coming and you are going to change your mind. You will either do that in the hog pen, or in the lake of fire. One of two places you are going to change your mind.

Could you imagine this young man now? He left home smiling, with money, had all of his friends. He is living the high life. He is doing all kinds of stuff. Everybody wanted to be around him. Everybody wanted to be where he was at. Do you know why? Because he was paying the bills.

Listen. Things change. Famine came. His money was gone. He got a job feeding hogs. The only thing he could do—he got a job feeding hogs. Here he is—the son of a loving father; he has a father, a loving father. A father that loves him. A father that would do anything for him. A father that all he wants this wayward son to do is one thing.

Do you know what this young man does? He is here. He is in the pig pen. Life has fallen apart. He begins to think.

I encourage you to do this. I don't want you to do this in public, because they may want to lock you up. However, I encourage you to do something. I encourage you to talk to yourself sometimes. I mean that. I encourage you to examine where you are at sometime in life. See where you are at and where you are at and why you are there, and what brought you there.

His father, his loving father did not get him in the pig pen. Do you know what got him there? His rebellion. His pride. I don't want to be under anybody's authority anymore. That is the world that we live in. Nobody is going to tell me what to do. That is man's philosophy.

Listen. You need somebody to tell you what to do and so do I. amen!

The Bible says here. Here he is. He wakes up.

Luke 15:17 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!

Do you know what that means? He begins to talk to himself. He begins to evaluate where he is at. He begins to think about where he is at. The Bible says here... Do you know what the first thing he thinks about? My father has all kinds of servants that has bread enough to spare and here I am in a hog pen starving to death. Amen! He is speaking to himself. He is talking to himself. Why am I here? What has happened in life? He never thought this day would come. When he left home, he never one time thought that this day would come but it did.

I may have told this story here once a long time ago. I am not going to tell you names. I am not going to tell you the city where it happened in. Many years ago, when I used to travel; a young man, God calls him to the ministry and God blessed him. It happened over several years. His ministry God used in a great way. He was just a young fellow. If my memory serves me correctly; he even went over seas and preached some and God really blessed him. He comes back home. People saw him that knew him, and knew there was an issue because of where he was loafing at. What was going on, and the decisions that he was making in life that some spiritual people knew was wrong. Things go on. Other people talked to him. Things went on—him, his family and his wife. He assures everybody that everything is fine.

Probably, if you would have talked to this young that is in the pig pen, a week before the famine came, do you know what he would have said? Everything is wonderful. I don't have to listen to dad anymore. I don't have to...nobody is going to tell me what to do. I am free now. He probably would have told. Well, that is what this young man was saying.

Everything was fine. Everything was fine. People talked to him. Different people talked to him. Everything is fine. Do you know what happened? They found him one night, in a certain city in the south, sitting outside of a bar; someone had come along in a drive by shooting and killed him. That is where they found the young man at.

You might say that doesn't happen. Listen. That does happen. In life, when we choose to rebel against the God of heaven, when we say, "Lord, I don't want you to be the Lord of my life any longer." There is a day coming. There is a day coming. There is a day coming.

This young man, he did something, as I said earlier; I wish we could get everybody to do. Do you know what he starts doing? He starts talking to himself. He starts evaluating where he was at. Again, he talks about the servants and the bread they have and here he is perishing. He is dying. He is starving to death. Even the servants back home; he thinks about the goodness of God and how great his father was. He said this will I do...

Luke 15:18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

Do you know what he doing now? He is repenting. He is making a decision based on the goodness of his father and the seriousness of the situation he is in—I don't want to be here no longer. I don't want to be in the pig pen any longer. I don't want to live in this state any longer. I know the servants back home are doing better than I am. I am a son. I am going to go to my father and I am going to tell him I have sinned. I am going to tell my father I have sinned against him. I have sinned against heaven. Please forgive me. Do you know what that is? That is repentance. That is repentance.

That is what I said earlier. If we could get people to repent. People gets sorry because they get caught in their sin. I have talked to a lot of people before in life that has been caught in extramarital affairs and all kinds of junk in life. They are sorry they got caught but they are not sorry that they sinned against God. You see, if you are just sorry that you got caught and that is as far as it goes then nothing good is going to come out of that. You are going to stay in the pig pen.

However, there is a heavenly Father that loves you. Listen. Even when you are in the pig pen, if you will just simply admit, "Father I have messed up. Father, I am the one that messed up. You did not mess up Father. You did not do anything wrong Lord. You did what I asked you to do. You gave it and I left. Now here I am in a mess. Please forgive me. I have sinned. I am repenting. Lord, I am sorry that I have done what I have done."

If we could get people in my family, in your family, in this community, in this world simply to admit to God that they have sinned; Campbell Chapel couldn't build a building half big enough to hold them all that would come. Amen!

Listen. This young man says, "Father, I have sinned..."

Luke 15:18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

Luke 15:19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

The servants were people that could be hired and fired every day. They had daytime servants. The servants were slaves. The servants that were there did not have shoes. They were people that they hired every day. Do you know what this young man is saying? I want out of this mess so bad that I am going to go back and tell my father that I have sinned. I have absolutely done wrong. I know you love me. You don't have to put me back in my sonship. Forget that. You don't have to make me nothing, but just make me one of your servants. That is all you have to do. I don't have to have my bedroom back. My boombox. I don't have to have none of that stuff back. All I want from you Lord, is just to forgive me and make me one of the servants. Make me one of the servants. That is all I want.

He went from a place of pride and arrogance and self-righteousness and thinking he knew it all. That he was better than everything else. He knew more than father. Now

he is repenting. The day came when it all fell apart. The day came when he figured out he was all so wrong. The day came when things in his life were totally a wreck. He said, "Lord, I am sorry. I am sorry. I have sinned. I have done wrong. I should not have done what I have done."

The Bible says here—and if that was all he would have done—he still yet would not have got out of the hog pen. In his mind, he said this is what I am going to do. That is good thinking. Is it? He is repenting. However, if that is all he ever did then he would still yet have stayed in the hog pen. Do you know what he does?

Luke 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

He arose. Not only did he talk to himself and say, "Hey, this is what I want to do. I am going to repent. I am going to say I am wrong. I have sinned. I have done wrong." Do you know what he does? He gets up and starts going towards his father's house.

A lot of people are sorry that they have sinned. A lot of people are sorry that they got caught. However, you don't find too many people who are sorry that they have sinned against God. Sorry, that they sinned against God and did what they did and broke the commandments of Almighty God. You don't find too many people that are sorry about that anymore.

The Bible says this young man arose...

Luke 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

That is the greatest love story that you will ever hear is a loving God coming, forgiving and receiving and forgiving a wayward child. Do you know what the father could have done? He could have seen him coming and said, "Hey, there is that kid that ran off. That was the kid that wasted my money." That is what his brother said. We don't want him back. We can't depend upon him. The father did not do that. He goes, grabs him, hugs him. He kisses him. Do you know why? Because he loved his son.

This story is a story of the great love of Almighty God.

The Bible says...

Luke 15:21 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.

Do you think this guy was actually sincere in what he was saying? He was honestly sincere. He was speaking from his heart. He knew he had genuinely sinned against his father. Do you know what he knew? Do you know what he was counting on?

Get this. He was counting on his father to be who his father was in that he knew his father was a loving father. He knew if he would come back and approach him in the right way; he knew his father would forgive him. If he would have come back in arrogance, if he would come back with a different spirit about him making all kinds of accusations and stuff—do you know what would happen? Nothing. He would not have been forgiven.

He came back in humility. He left in pride but he came back in humility. The day came when he changed his mind. Circumstances changed the way he thought. Circumstances brought him to a place that he knew he was in trouble, that he needed to repent. Again, the first thing he thought about was his father and how much he loved him, how much he cared about him, how that he even took care of the servants.

Listen. The Bible tells us here. We know the story. The father says, “Go get the robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. This is my son that was lost and is found. He was dead and is alive again.” The Bible says they began to be merry. They had a great time. No doubt there was a lot of rejoicing in that house on that day because this young man—I don’t know how long he had been gone. I don’t know how long his father had been waiting for him to come back. I know they were rejoicing here this day because a loving father is receiving back at home a wayward child. A child that had sinned against him. A child that chose with his eyes open, to sin against him. However, he also chose one day to repent and come back and say, I’m sorry.

That is a word that we need to learn. That is word that we need to have in our prayer life is God I am sorry. God I am sorry that I have sinned against you. God I am sorry that I have messed up. I am sorry that I have done this or that and fallen so short. That is a word that would do us a lot of good if we would use it more. Even in everyday life. I’m sorry.

It was great forgiveness. It was a great time. There was a great time of joy.

The thing I want you to remember about this whole thing tonight is this one thing. It does not matter how far we go in life, how deep in sin we get, how far away we get from our Father. The only thing that matters is this. Are we willing to admit that we have sinned? Are we willing to admit that God loves us, that our Father loves us and He will forgive us? Are we willing to admit that we have been wrong? That we have wronged the God of heaven. Are we willing to say Lord, I am sorry? I repent. I confess my sins.

If you will do that do you know what God will do? He will forgive you. He will forgive you. He will wipe the slate clean.

Do you know what you can do? You can start tomorrow. Your life may be like this today. You may have all this stuff on it. It may be all kinds of stuff. Do you know what you can do tomorrow if you will ask God to forgive you? You can start with a clean page. You can start with a clean sheet. Do you know what He will do? He will take

this—all the sin, all the things we have messed up with, all the things that we have done wrong, all the pride, and all the arrogance; He will forgive it when we approach Him as this young man approached his father.

I have sinned against heaven before thy sight. He was very humble, in a way of humility. His father forgave him and it was a great time of fellowship. God will do the same thing for you tonight as we stand.

We have a loving God. He loves us. He cares about us.

As no account as we all are; everyone of us has issues. When God looks at our lives, He sees every imperfection that we have. Amen! He knows them all. People may not know them all but God knows them all and still yet loves us. He stands with outstretched arms, looking for you to come home. Wherever you are at...I encourage you to talk to the God of heaven and tell Him you are sorry, that you have sinned against Him. Ask Him to forgive you. He will forgive you.

Come and pray—