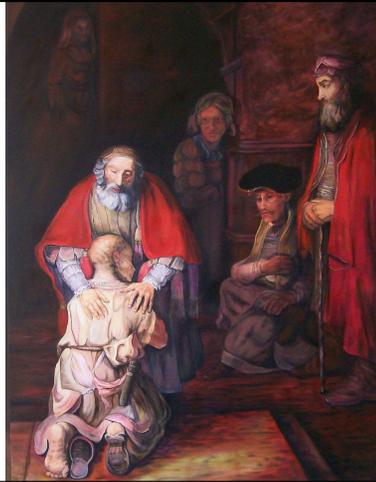


The Welcome By The Compassionate Father

The Parable of The Prodigal Son



The Painting

- Painted by Rembrandt in 1669.
- The whole represents a symbol of homecoming, of the darkness of human existence illuminated by tenderness, of weary and sinful mankind taking refuge in the shelter of God's mercy.
- There is infinite compassion, unconditional love, everlasting forgiveness—divine realities—emanating from a Father who is the creator of the universe. Here, both the human and the divine, the fragile and the powerful, the old and the eternally young are fully expressed.

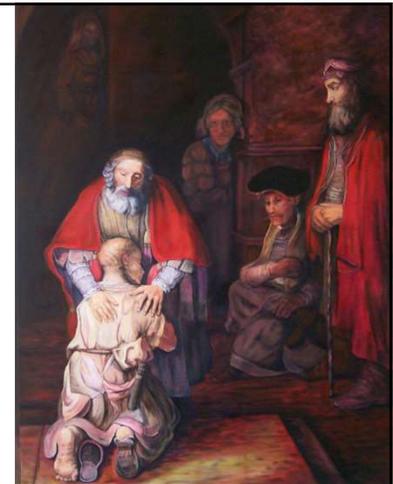


The Prodigal Son - The Leaving

- Luke 15:11-32
- Implicit in “the return” is “the leaving”.
- The younger son asks for his share of the inheritance -12
- A radical contradiction to the tradition of the time
- He left “for a far country” -13
- More than disrespect
- 14 Reckless living and circumstances took their due
- 15 Necessity stripped him of all that was considered right
- 16 He wasn't considered worthy of pig food

His Condition

- I am the prodigal every time I search for love where it cannot be found. This is our world!
- His hair is shaved
- His clothes are undergarments
- His sandals are broken
- His feet are scarred
- He hadn't been considered a human being
- His short sword, a symbol of position, of sonship

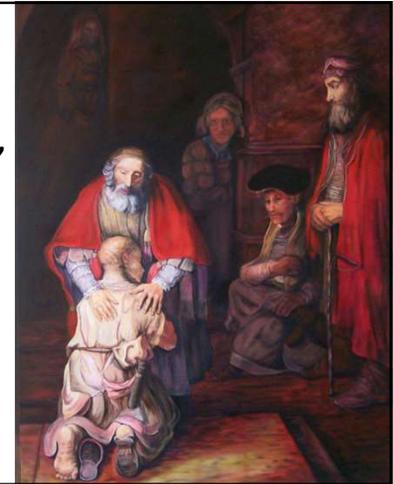


His "Conversion"

- 17 – He recognized the ultimate destiny of this path is death
- 18 – He had to lose everything to realize who he was
- 19 – There is repentance, but self serving repentance
- 20 – The Father was looking for him. Unconditional acceptance. Not get him cleaned up, then come see me!
- 21 – Confession – recognition of position on earth and heaven
- 22-24 - 15:7 The joy of heaven

The Other Lost Son

- 25-27 Getting "lost" at home
- Rembrandt's elder son has no joy, folded hands, refusing to look at his brother
- 28 – He refused to go in, but the Father came seeking
- 29 – Jesus is describing the Scribes and Pharisees joyless fulfillment of the law
- To trust or not to trust God



The Loving Father

- Only the Father is good
- God calls us "my child" (affection)
- The Father is more than a great Patriarch, He is a mother as well.
- Look at the hands of the Father
- Have we realized all this time God has been trying to find me?
- How am I to let myself be loved by God?

