

P.M. OUTLINE  
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THE PRODIGAL'S RECEPTION

(Luke 15:20-24)

INTRODUCTION

There's something about receptions: before we go anywhere, walk into a room, attend an event, we want to know something about how we will be received (it relieves anxiety).

1. THE PRODIGAL PREPARED FOR HIS RECEPTION: "I will arise" "I will go" "I will say"

Now the suspense of what will happen when he arrives home: Get a lecture?  
Really make me a hired servant? Tell me that I can't stay? Welcome me?

2. THE RECEPTION: It is amazing grace.

"his father saw him" - the father does not bar the door and pull the shades down.

"had compassion" - it means sorrow for the suffering of others with an urge to help.

"and ran" - Yes, God will run, hasten, be quick, toward those returning home.

"and fell on his neck" - the son may be thinking, "This is an unexpected action."

"and kissed him" - it's not the hypocritical kiss of a Judas; sincere; welcome.  
The father interrupts the son's confession and no chance to hear hired-servant request.

"the father said to his servants" - the father quickly receives and restores.

"bring forth the best robe" - hospitality; you are welcome here.

"put a ring on his hand" - a symbol of relationship and belonging.

"shoes on his feet" - no longer orphaned; a member of the family.

"bring the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry" -

Salvation (restoration) is always an occasion of joy.

(Luke 15:5) lost sheep found. (v7) in heaven over one sinner that repents.  
(v9) lost coin is found. (v10) in the presence of angels when one repents.  
(v24) when prodigals come home. (v32) when telling a brother that  
his brother is home. (Acts 8:39) Ethiopian rejoices.  
(Acts 16:34) jailor's household at Philippi rejoice. (Phil. 4:4) "Rejoice"  
(3 John v4) "no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth"

Rejoice when one is baptized and when one repents with godly sorrow.

3. CLOSE - knowing how God will receive you, come home!

Hymn #924 Just As I Am

Stanza #3 - "Just as I am! Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,  
relieve; because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!"