#### "Sons of the Father"

June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Pastor Darryl R. Curtis

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Informed. Insightful. Intelligent.



Now, I invite you to join us as we look at our Father's Day text, **Luke 15:11**:

11 Then [Jesus] said: "A certain man had two sons.

Thank you for listening and thinking with me as we study God's Word to obtain the mind of Christ, meaning, to have the Bible illuminated in our minds so we can clearly understand the principles that Jesus taught and base our daily personal decisions on those principles.

We come to Church because we want to be obedient to the Bible, which is the doctrine of Jesus Christ, in an informed, insightful and intelligent manner.

As we begin, let me communicate to you that my preaching is based upon the fact that every episode recorded in the Bible is literally true.

We live in a culture in which fantasy and fiction dominate, but we need to resist the allure of made-up stories and intellectually concocted arguments as we develop faith in the meticulously recorded factual history of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ by the eyewitnesses who were present on the scene.

We must do whatever we need to do to develop the personal faith needed to believe that the Bible is the absolute truth, and recognize that every fiction put forth by man or by the devil to contradict or minimize the impact of Biblical accounts is a lie.

The relationship of father to son is the oldest relationship in the Bible. **Genesis 2:7** informs us:

7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

After his creation, the Lord God gave the man, His first earthly son, the type of counsel that any good earthly father would give his son, counsel that would allow the son to avoid the pitfalls of life. For the good earthly father has experience that his son does not yet have, and considers it a responsibility to impart that experience to his son, so that his son can avoid the mistakes that his father made. A good earthly father's wants his son to start with the wisdom that his father has gleaned from life so that the son can learn the lessons by conversation that the father learned by experience. So, the Lord God told His earthly son Adam, in **Genesis 2:16–17**:

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

That, my friends, was some good fatherly advice. There is a poison tree in the garden, my son, and you should avoid it, because you will be faced with a life and death decision as to whether to consume its fruit or leave it alone. And, from

the Lord God's perspective, forewarned is forearmed, so the man, his son, had the information needed to have everlasting life.

I remember the struggle that I had with Christianity. As a child, I figured out, on my own, that the stories of Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy were just untrue stories that adults told children for some ungodly reason. Of course, young children believe their parents implicitly, but a day comes in which children find out that their parents have been lying to them about these things which parents consider trivial, but children take as the most important things in the world. And then, when parents want to teach their children the plan of salvation, to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead, the parents have lost credibility with the child when it comes to belief in the supernatural.

Fortunately for me, in my early twenties, I was approached by a peer that introduced me to the historical research surrounding the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord blessed me to find the topic so fascinating that I studied the Resurrection until I was firmly convinced that the history for the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ was better than the history for any event that happened on earth before the invention of the printing press. But I shudder to think what may have happened to me had the Lord not put that young man in my path who pointed me to the historical proof for the Resurrection, and not just the stylized stories that I heard from those hooping preachers all my life that Baptist folk love to hear.

However, the record records that Our Father God loves us, and sent our brother, the Lord Jesus Christ, to point us to Him. And Jesus tells us, in **John 14:6**:

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

The way to everlasting life is based upon the truth. The Biblical accounts of the life, death, burial and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ are the truth, and it is a blessing that the Father has given us that absolute truth in which to believe. In this world intentionally dominated by fiction at the hands of the Tempter, it is imperative that we cling to the Biblical truth that proceeds from the Father, even as the world casts aspersions on Biblical truth at every opportunity.

Different people, however, take different roads to reach the truth. Some can listen to the Father and glean the truth from His teaching. Others do the research and thus come to the correct conclusion. Others, however, have to learn in the school of hard knocks. And, unfortunately, some never learn.

The Lord God pities those that reject His Fatherhood and His wisdom, as He tells them in **Ezekiel 18:31**:

31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?

The provision for our salvation has been made. The Lord Jesus Christ has paid the penalty that we owe for the sins that we have committed on Calvary's Cross. For our part, we must simply come to a saving knowledge of the truth, as Jesus tells us in **John 3:16–17**:

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

God so loved the world because He is our Father and we are His children. The Apostle Paul tells us, in **Romans 8:29**:

29 For whom [the Lord God] foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The Apostle John tells us, in 1John 3:2:

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

God is our Father, and He has made provisions for us to be with Him forever and ever. Oh, we have this brief sojourn on planet earth to endure, at the conclusion of which, we will be changed, at the last trumpet. But even as the Lord God warned his son, the first man Adam, to leave the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil alone and Adam disobeyed, there are those of us in this life that find it necessary to disregard the Word of God and strike out on our own. And just as the Lord God allowed his son Adam to choose his fate through his disobedience, He gives us the same choice.

The parable in our text for today depicts a father that has made provision for his sons. His sons knew of the provision and rather than wait to develop the maturity to invest his provision well, the younger of the two sons, like Adam, thought that he had a better idea. **Luke 15:11–12** informs us:

11 Then [Jesus] said: "A certain man had two sons.

12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.

Young. Inexperienced. Foolish. The perfect piece of meat for the devil to cook. And once the boy got his hands on the money, he wanted to get as far from his father's supervision as possible. His father was a nose to the grindstone, shoulder to the wheel type of person, and the younger son was convinced that there had to be a better way than the monotony of planting and harvesting year after year after year. Surely, there was a shortcut to wealth; a financial formula that the father did not have the good sense to figure out.

Young. Inexperienced. Foolish. But since the younger son had money, the younger son had the ability to go out on his own and find this great financial formula. So, the younger son left home. But the only thing that the younger son

learned was that he was easy pickings. The investments that the younger son envisioned never materialized, and like so many with a finite amount of capital, the younger son found out the definition of finite. My Dad used to say, "You can have a million dollars in the bank, but if you spend money with continuing to earn money, eventually, you will get down to that last dollar."

Young. Inexperienced. Foolish. Oh, but the younger son was becoming experienced. **Luke 15:14–16** informs us:

14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

Of course, the Jews did not raise swine. Swine was on the list of animals that the Jews were forbidden to eat. But the young man's great financial plan turned out to be feeding swine, as he argued, in his head, with the swine over whether or not he should take a portion of swine food.

As the debate raged between the younger son and the swine in the younger son's head, the younger son had another thought. I'm sure that the Spirit of the Living God brought this thought to the younger son, because it was such a profound thought. **Luke 15:17–19** informs us:

17 "But when [the younger son] came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."

In the depths of degradation, even if the degradation is our very own fault as it often is, our Father has so blessed us that we always have the option to call on Him. Blessedly, the operant word in **John 3:16** is "whosoever". The hymnologist puts it thusly:

We are our Heavenly Father's children

And we all know that He loves us one and all

Yet there are times when we find that we answer

Another's beck and call

If we are willing, He will teach us

His voice only to obey no matter when and where

And He knows, I'm so glad He knows

Just how much we can bear.

Do you not know that our Heavenly Father is hoping and praying that each and every one of His sons will come to their senses, will come home and will

develop the maturity that every good father wants his son to achieve? On this Father's Day, there is no greater gift that any son can give his father than the gift of developing maturity, the gift of raising his grandson in a Godfearing manner, in such a way that not only will his lineage be carried on, but that it will be carried on honorably and successfully.

The Lord God, especially, wants this for His sons in this life. Brothers, listen to the prophet Isaiah, who tells us, in **Isaiah 55:6–7**:

6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.
7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; And to our God,
for He will abundantly pardon.

And in this light, Jesus continues the parable, in Luke 15:20: 20 "And [the younger son] arose and came to his father. But when [the younger son] was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

Not only is there room at the cross for you, my son, but the Lord God is hoping and praying that you will recognize your wretched state and avail yourself of His mercy. So much so that He is watching for you a great way off. Jesus told His disciples, in **Matthew 28:19–20**:

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

The Father is watching from a great way off, even sending disciples to let you know that all will be forgiven if you just come home. The Father is not disappointed in His earthly sons, for He anticipated their sinfulness when they left home for the far country, but for the Father, the best outcome is just that His earthly sons will repent and come home. Oh, just repentantly come down that road and all will be forgiven.

Son, there is no penalty for you to pay. The Lord God sent your brother, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay your penalty so that you could contritely come home, without fear of rejection. You've learned a lesson, son, in the school of hard knocks. I hoped that you could learn here with me, but I knew that unless you went to school, you would never learn the lesson. But now that you have learned the lesson and school is out, I want you to come home. I consider the money that I gave you the cost of tuition. Now that school is out, I want you to come home.

From a distance, the father in the parable anticipates that which has happened and is overjoyed. Oh, what is the point of developing wealth if not to use it to bring up sons that will insure the father's legacy. The Lord God created the world, not because He wanted a world, but because He wanted sons.

All of the resources of the world exist so that the Lord God can use those resources to develop sons. The prophet Isaiah tells us, in Isaiah 57:15: 15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

The far country is the place that you go to develop humility and contrition. The far country is the place in which weeping will endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Sometimes, you can't teach your son the lessons he needs to know academically. Sometimes, your son has to learn the lessons experientially. But it doesn't matter whether your son learns academically or experientially, just as long as he learns.

And comes home. The parable continues in **Luke 15:21**:

21 And the son said to [his father], 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

Truer words were never spoken. But John 8:31–32 informs us: 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Oh, we are not worthy. Coming home with our tail dragging between our legs, having spent all that the Father gave us on riotous living, then ending up slopping pigs in the pig sty of the foreign man. Oh, our intentional behavior has made us unworthy of any consideration. We would be more than blessed if the father would just give us the chance to labor in his field as did his hired servants and collect a paycheck. At least we could buy food so that we wouldn't be so hungry that we considered eating the food designated for the pigs.

Oh, there is nothing worthy about us. Listen to the episode recorded in **Luke 22:54–62**:

54 Having arrested [Jesus], they led Him and brought [Jesus] into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance.

55 Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

56 And a certain servant girl, seeing [Peter] as he sat by the fire, looked intently at [Peter] and said, "This man was also with [Jesus]."

57 But [Peter] denied [Jesus], saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." 58 And after a little while another saw [Peter] and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

59 Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with [Jesus], for he is a Galilean." 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while [Peter] was still speaking, the rooster crowed.



61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Oh, you don't have to go all the way to the far country. You can betray the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ in the very shadow of the Cross. Just being among those that do not believe and having your faith publicly challenged might put you in a place in which you agree to something that you know of which the Lord is not in favor, but you agree because of peer pressure and the wiles of the devil.

The Father is watching, but the Father is not disappointed in our weakness. Even the Apostle Paul describes his ministry, in 1Corinthians 2:1–3: 1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

Paul did not know how the Corinthians were going to receive him, if his ministry would even be given a hearing. But Paul recognized his weakness as an opportunity to rely on the Father, as he tells us in **2Corinthians 12:10**:

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Oh, when we are weak, it is time to call on the Father. It is time, as the Psalmist tells us in **Psalm 121:1–2**:

1 I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help?
2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Sometimes, our situation is so bad that we decide to follow the instructions of the wise man, in **Proverbs 3:5–6**:

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Oh, we have to come down that road to the Father's house broken and hungry, having spent our fortune, begging for a chance to just be considered a servant. For once we understand from where our help comes, we can better regulate how we will act.

So. in **Luke 15:21**:

21 And the son said to [his father], 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

No, son, you are not worthy. But you are not my son because you are worthy to be my son. You are my son because I brought you into this world, and

have the taken on the responsibility to take care of you. You are my son because I love you.

And the Father made this clear. The parable continues, in Luke 15:22–24: 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

Now, there is more to the parable. But the purpose of Father's Day is to salute those fathers who have prepared for their sons. Not just financially, but in terms of wisdom and knowledge. I was talking with my son yesterday, and was reminiscing about the days when he was just a little fellow and I was a preacher. While the pastor of the church that I was attending preached, my son sat in my lap in the pulpit. Some of the ladies of the church thought that having a little kid in the pulpit was inappropriate, so one Sunday, one of them came up to me and demanded that I "give her that baby".

So, I did. But my son, Mr. Pauly, wasn't having it. He squirmed and squiggled and made such a fuss that the lady brought him back. And when he got back to my lap, he was fine as frog hair, as he usually was. I would tell him, "OK, Paul, the pastor is about to preach. You have to be quiet and listen." And he did. Paul sat there and looked at the pastor like he understood every word that the pastor said until finally, he fell asleep.

I was at Paul's home in Charlotte, North Carolina a few weeks ago. His church is not meeting in person, but he watches the sermon over the internet on his big screen TV. And as he did so, he had his daughter on one side of his lap and his son on the other, as they were all watching the message. And oh, how my heart swelled as I saw my son walking in my footsteps, making sure that his children, who are too young to understand the theological intricacies of the sermonic presentation, sit with him watching, as he transmitted to them by his actions that the Word of God, even though they did not understand it intellectually, is important.

Fathers, it is our job to plant seeds. Mothers bring children into the world and are their primary caregivers, but it is ours to plant the seeds that will grow our sons into men and our daughters into women. I was blessed to have a disciplinarian for a father, who taught me that it was my responsibility to take care of my wife and children. And when all around were divorcing their wives, many with good reason, including me, I could not do so, because if I did, I would have to go home and face my Dad.

And I would have to face my heavenly Father, who tells me, in **Malachi 2:13–16**:

13 And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, nor receive it with goodwill from your hands.

14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.

15 But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

16 "For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

The Lord God of Hosts seeks godly offspring from our marriages, which are extraordinarily difficult to produce from a broken home. So, the Lord gives fathers the responsibility to work out their problems with the mothers of their children, for the benefit of the children.

So, on this Father's Day, the example of a good Father is the Lord, our Heavenly Father. And He is looking for His sons who are off track to come home. Brothers, you cannot be too prodigal to come home. Brothers, you cannot be too unworthy to come home. The Father is watching that road from the far country, waiting and hoping that He will see your broken, contrite and unworthy heart on the road, having learned the lesson that the far country had to teach you, ready to come back to be part of the family.

And don't worry about the fortune that you have squandered. For the Lord Jesus Christ took your debt to Calvary's Cross and paid it. Oh, the wages of sin is death, and death is all we deserve, but the Lord Jesus Christ stood in our place, allowed Himself to be nailed to the Cross, where He suffered from the sixth to the ninth hour to pay the penalty that we owe for the sins that we have committed. Then, the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead on that first Easter Sunday morning to let us know, and to let the world know that the Father is looking down the road, waiting for us to return home.

Yes, now that the penalty is paid, the Father is looking down the road, anticipating your return. No, you are not worthy to be called His son, but the Father is willing to forgive your sin against Him if you bring Him your contrite heart.

Oh, repent, sinner, because the Father lives and loves to forgive his sons who repent. Jesus tells us, in **Matthew 11:28–30**:

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

There is no rest for your souls in the far country. But there is rest for our souls with the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no rest for your souls being arrogant and disobedient, but there is rest for our souls in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Father loves you and will receive you. That's what good fathers do for their sons that get off track and then learn their lesson. So now is the accepted time. Today is the day that the Father is looking down the road. Come away from the pig sty and come home to the Father, and the Father will accept you. And then you can be a father and accept your own sons as you emulate your Father in heaven.

The Father's plan is a plan of restoration. Let us choose to participate with our heavenly Father and help those that need restoration to receive it. And restoration comes through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The historical accounts life of the Lord Jesus Christ are not fairy tales or a made-for-tv story. Oh, excellent movies have been made about the Lord Jesus Christ's miracles, about His Crucifixion and about His Resurrection, but I am here to tell you that the episodes depicted in those movies, unlike many movies, are as true as the day is long.

Oh, we owe a debt. We have taken the Father's inheritance to the far country and squandered it. Sin and shame are the hallmark of our actions, and the Father would be completely justified if He chose to write us off and never speak to us again.

But our heavenly Father, who is rich in mercy, had one sinless Son, His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom He sent down from Heaven, not to condemn us, but to redeem from the sin that we have committed. And even as the Lord Jesus Christ was sent to redeem mankind, the worshipers of the Most High God condemned Him. Even the pagan Pontius Pilate examined the life of Christ and could find no fault in Him. **Matthew 27:20–25** informs us:

- 20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.
- 21 The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"
- 22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"
- 23 Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"
- 24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."
  25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

So, Pilate allowed the Lord Jesus Christ to be crucified. But this, however unjust, was nothing more than the plan of the Most High God, who offered His

only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice for the sin of the world when the Romans nailed Him to Calvary's Cross.

Oh, and they used real nails. They were eight-inch Roman roofing nails with square sides, with which they pierced the Lord Jesus Christ's wrists and ankles and nailed Him to the Cross. Then, they lifted the Lord Jesus Christ up before the multitudes for all to see so that they could jeer at Him. **Matthew** 27:39–43 informs us:

39 And those who passed by blasphemed [Jesus], wagging their heads 40 and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

41 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said,

42 "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.

43 He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' "

The Lord Jesus Christ was on the Cross because of sin. Oh, not His own sin, but because of your sin and my sin. Oh, remember that bad word you said a few days ago? Oh, remember that dirty joke you told? Oh, remember how you cheated and lied in your former life? The Lord is too just to let those sins go. Someone has to pay the penalty.

And that is why the Lord Jesus Christ found Himself on the Cross. The Lord God is our Father, who sent our older brother, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty that we owe for the sins that we have committed. From the sixth to the ninth hour on that fateful Friday, which is between noon and 3pm, the Lord God darked the sun, encapsulated the punishment that we owe for the sins that we have committed, and poured it down on the Lord Jesus Christ. Untold suffering came to the Lord Jesus Christ as He hung on the Cross. And He took it. And when the very last sin was paid for, the Lord Jesus Christ said, "It is finished."

He meant, "It is paid, the debt is paid." Our Father God and our Brother, the Lord Jesus Christ made sure that all of the sinful squandering of our fortune in the far country was repaid. Then, Jesus hung His head in the locks on His shoulder, and He died.

And once the Lord Jesus Christ died, the Father started looking down the road to the far country, for with the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, we who have squandered the Father's fortune are free to come home. Our debt is paid, and if we will but come home, the Father will receive us.

How do I know this to be true? Well, as prophesied, on the third day in the grave, that first Easter Sunday, the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Not only did the Lord Jesus Christ rise physically, but He met with His disciples and

explained the plan of Salvation to them. We have their testimony, which they gave at the cost of their lives, to verify this truth.

Then the Lord Jesus Christ told His disciples to spread the word of forgiveness and redemption so that any of us who found ourselves in the far country could come home.

And the Father wants us to come home on this Father's Day. Nothing would please the Father more than if we would fall out with the wicked ways of this world and come home. Our brother, the Lord Jesus Christ had paid our debt. There is a ring for our finger and shoes for our feet awaiting us. The Apostle John tells us, in **1John 3:2**:

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when [the Lord Jesus Christ] is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

But we must come home. Leave the far country, oh sinner, and come home. All will be forgiven if you just return to the Father in the name of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit, who is willing to walk you down the road and bring you back. Oh, come home on this Father's Day. There is no greater gift that you can give the Father than just to come home.

Oh, Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin has left its crimson stain
But Jesus washed it white as snow.

The Father has made provision for His wayward children through the Lord Jesus Christ. Please, sir and please ma'am, do not miss out on that which the Father has done through our older brother, the Lord Jesus Christ. I implore you, come home. The Father is waiting. Make his Father's Day complete by giving Him the present of your presence. Come home. Please, just come home.

Pastor Darryl R. Curtis Family Life Baptist Church