

# The Parable of the Lost Son (e 2)

The Pearl & Crown of  
all parables  
Gospel within the  
Gospel



# The Parable of the Lost Son

Parable of Lost Son or  
Parable of the  
Loving Father?

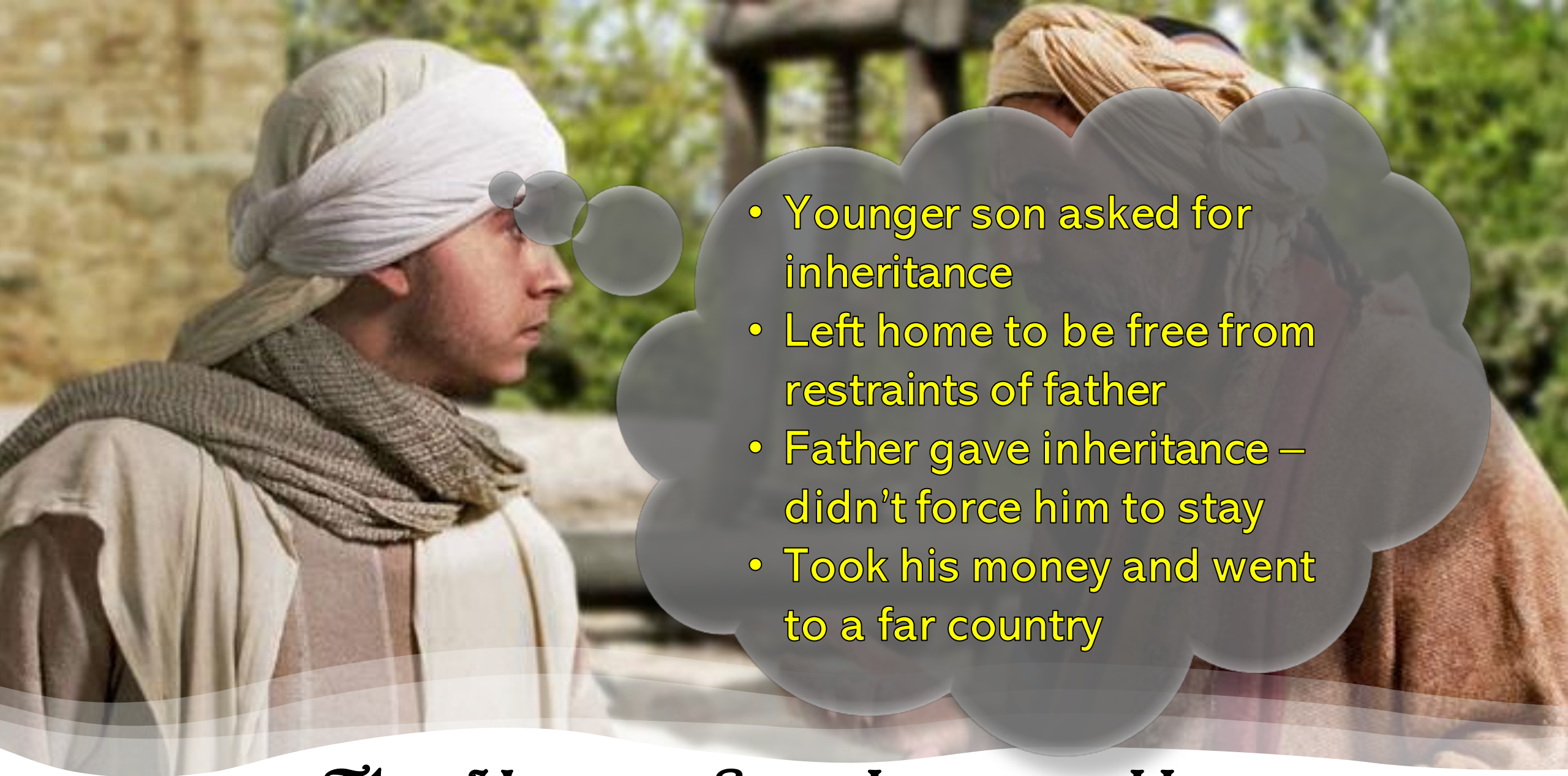


# The Parable of the Lost Son

Which son  
was the  
prodigal?







- Younger son asked for inheritance
- Left home to be free from restraints of father
- Father gave inheritance – didn't force him to stay
- Took his money and went to a far country

# The Young Son Leaves Home

- Wasted his money on loose living
- Did not rain for as long time
- Situation complicated by being broke & the famine
- In desperation hired himself out to feed pigs
- Pigs had more to eat than he did



Filthy & Starving in the Far Country



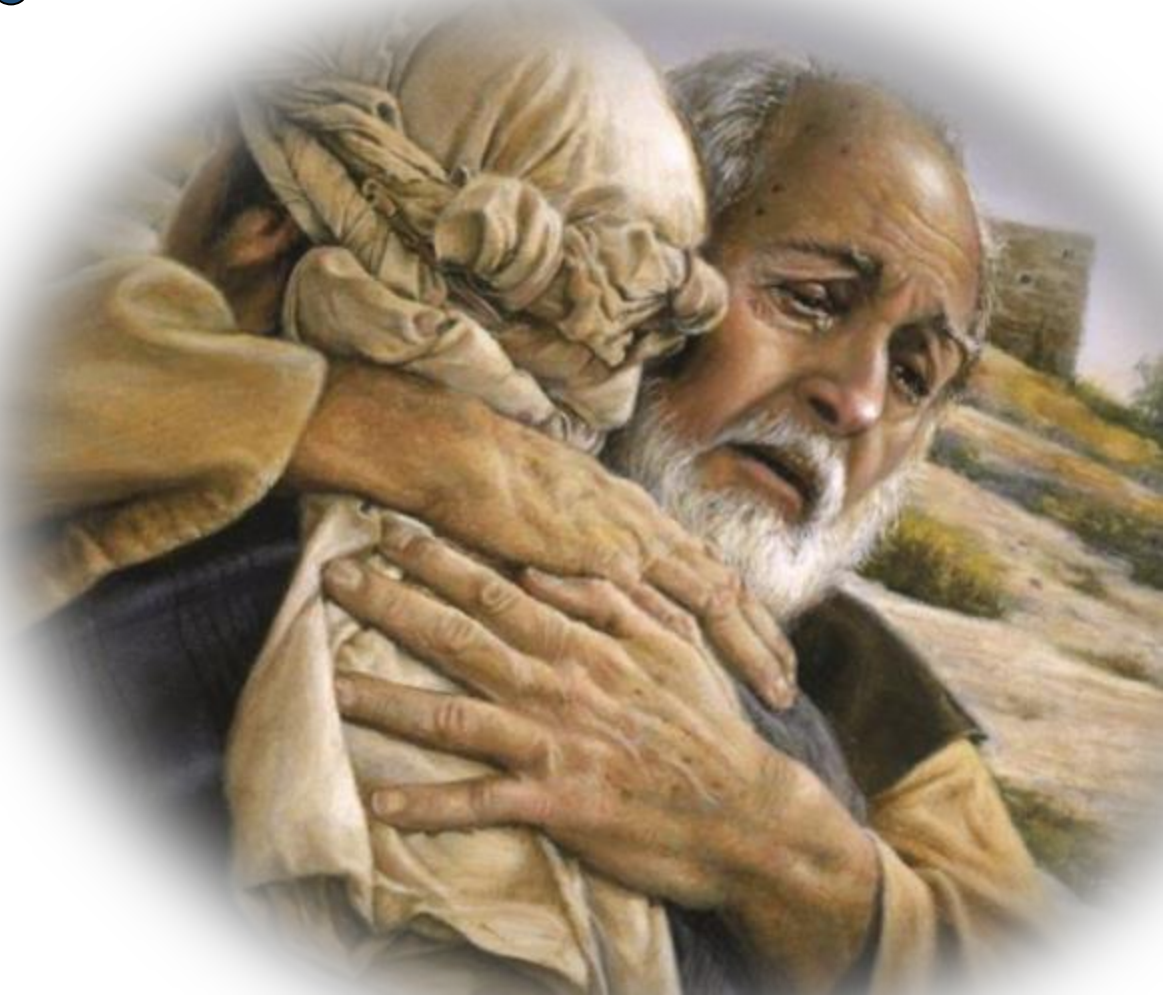
- His journey home began when he came to his senses
- He remembered his life at home (looked pretty good now)
- To return home his attitude had to change
- Acknowledged his sin and unworthiness to be a son
- Just wanted to be a servant in his father's house



## The Younger Son Heads Home

# His Reception at Home

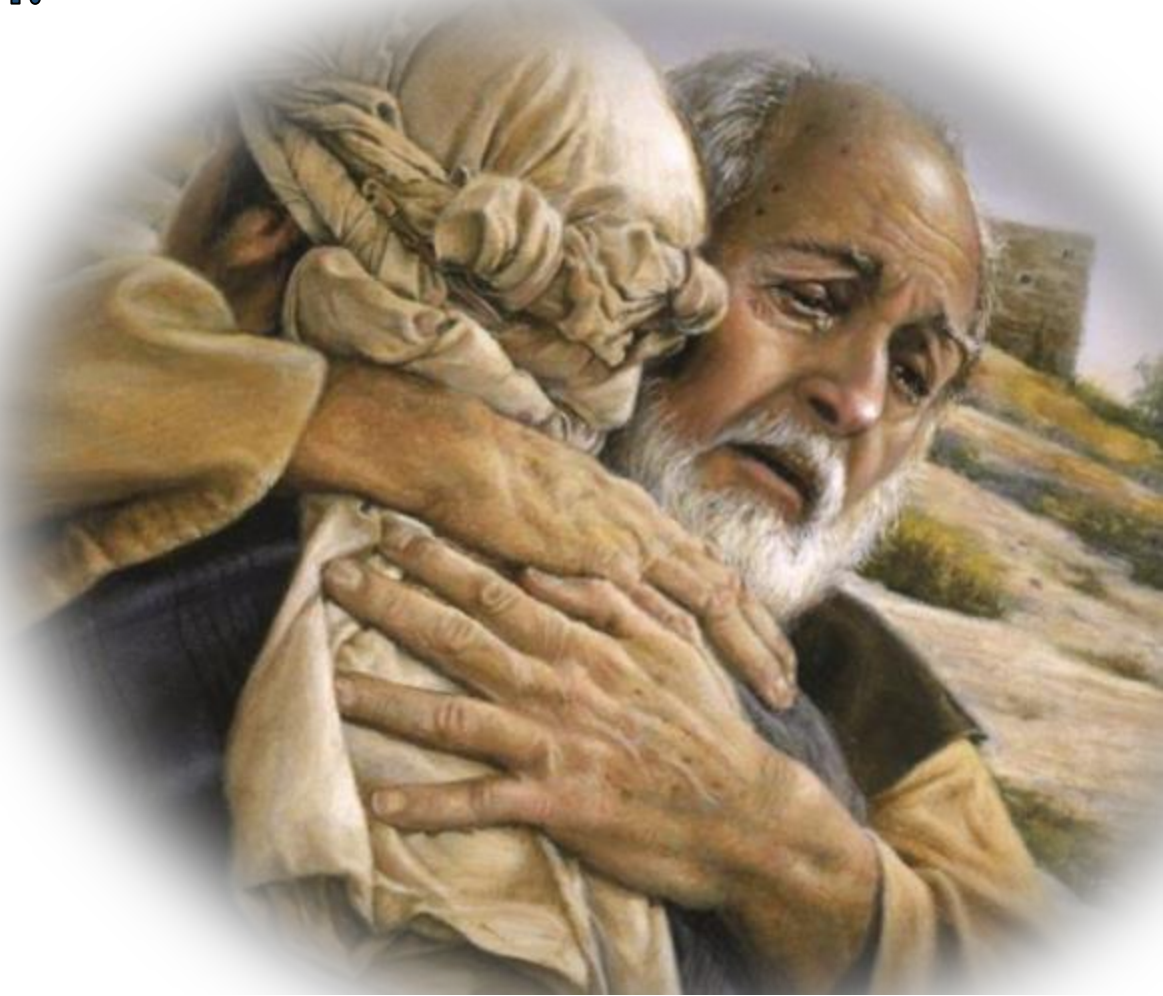
- **Father saw son coming home & ran to meet him**
  - *Greeted son with compassion*
  - *Ran to greet son*
  - *Thru arms around him*
  - *Father kissed son*
- **Son quickly confesses sin**
- **Father welcomed him back not as a servant but a son**



# His Reception at Home

- **Take note of what the father gave son:**
  - *Put best robe on him*
  - *Ring on his finger*
  - *Sandals on his feet*
  - *Kills a fatted calf for celebration*

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.





# Reaction of the Older Brother

## The Other Prodigal

- Moved by jealousy rejected brother
- Hearing the noise enters angry at celebration
- **Older brother's complaint**
  - *He had faithfully served his father*
  - *He had never violated father's will*
  - *Father had never given him a party*
  - *His brother squandered inheritance*



# Reaction of the Father

- Younger son- “son” Older brother “you”
- Father assures older son he would still get his inheritance
- Father asserts his right to celebrate

So, ends this Pearl & Crown of  
the Parables







# Who does each character represent?

- **The Father**
  - *Represents God the Father*
- **Younger son**
  - *Represents the sinners coming to Jesus*
- **Older brother**
  - *The self-righteous Pharisees*
- **Far Country**
  - *Any place of sin*
- **Home**
  - *In presence of God –place of fellowship*

## Son Did Not Find What He Wanted in Far Country

- Did not find what he was looking for
- Promised to be fun, exciting, fulfilling, instant gratification
- Sin is only pleasurable for a short time (Heb. 11:25)
- Soon discovered the far country left him empty





# What Son Found in Far Country

- Far country “lies” too late
  - In far country
  - Initial experience
  - Led him to a
  - about pigs than the
  - Satan snares us with good & only after hooked do we see the harm
- Amazingly, Jesus Loves People in the Pig Pen!  
Hates Pig Pen!
- ... have him?  
... are concerned



## Journey Home Began When He Came to His Senses

- Admit Satan's greener pastures were not so green
- Realized where he was & didn't like it
- Some must hit rock bottom to look up
- "Empty stomach" can be a powerful motivator





# Father's Motivation

- The father-
  - *Fathers love their sons & want time with them*
  - *Father filled with compassion*
- Son's reception-
  - *Father ran hugged & kissed*
- The father's gifts-
  - *Best robe- cover scars of far country*
  - *Ring-symbol of trust*
  - *Shoes – indicated a free man*
  - *Party –acknowledgement of sonship*



# How Do I Set My Heart Toward Home?

- Remember the blessings of home
- Confront real problems- “I have sinned”
- Far country only exposed inner corruption
- Contact our real Friend
- Trust the father’s love





# Father's Reaction to Older Son

- Older brother harshly judgmental
- Disgusting superiority
- Too full of himself to see the joy of reconciliation
- “I’m the one who deserves a party”
- Didn’t want to be treated equal –he wanted to be treated better



# Father's Reaction to Older Son

- “How could I not celebrate- dead brother alive!”
- He should join celebration –his brother alive
- Older brother didn't realize what it meant to be a father –saw father in debt to him
- His faithful service acknowledged – had not earned his wealth
- There but for the grace of God go I
- Older had father's name but not his heart
- As with younger, older prodigal needed to turn his heart toward home





They are not pigs; the  
Father wants them back.

You show  
others the  
way?

# Jesus Christ

Are you the  
prodigal?

G  
R  
A  
C  
E

Reach out to the  
prodigals of the world

