



Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church

Season of Great Lent:



Parable of the Prodigal Son

March 19-20, 2022

Lenten Reflection by Our Seminarians

The parable of the Prodigal Son is arguably one of the most famous stories in literature only found in the Gospel of Luke of the New Testament. Now apart from the most poignant, time-honored moral of repentance and forgiveness, this parable may implicitly bear a deep spiritual implication, through upon which I invite us to meditate during this period of Holy Lent. Now how many of us may identify with the younger son who squandered his inheritance in debauchery and reckless living? Or who among us might identify with the older brother whose heart was burning with jealousy and envy? And for the sake of inclusivity, some of us, old enough and fortunate to have endured a significant portion of trials in life, might identify with the compassionate father—whether you yourself a father or a mother—who is waiting at the porch through endless afternoons leading into long nights of fervent prayers and tears in the hope of the safe return of your prodigal sons and daughters. Well, as composites, we, human beings are all prodigal sons and daughters who have left our original home, that is heaven, and because of Original Sin, have fallen into gross matter and have been identifying mostly with our Ego and gradually forgetting who we truly are. We have lost the privilege to abide in the abode of freedom where our ancestors Adam and Eve blissfully enjoyed walking with God in the garden of Eden on breezy afternoons, perhaps looking at God face to face and hearing his commands. Now instead, our walking is limping, our vision is dimming, and our hearing is selecting according to what we fancy. We are enamored by glitter and plastic while remaining utterly oblivious to the fact that not all that glitters is gold. We were expelled from the citadel of our omnipotent Father, and we fell away from the heavenly forms all the way down into the slums of matter—a far distant land here on earth. And just like the paterfamilias who could not stand in the way of his younger son wanting to venture out to a far distant land, within the land, our heavenly Father, too, in respecting our free Will, stands not in the way of our unorganized and untamed desires which tend to move us toward sinful words and deeds. Or how about the older brother, who seemed continent and disciplined? How many of us claim that label of self-righteousness and virtuousness while looking down on other incontinent and vicious sinners? How many of us gnash our teeth in jealousy and envy at our next-door neighbor, or sister-in-law, mother-in-law, and even our own siblings for having been looked upon with favor by God? How many of us bless with our mouths but curse in our hearts? Perhaps, some would say that the spiteful reaction of the older brother—refusing to join the welcome-home feast in honor of his younger brother's return—was motivated by the desire to stand for justice. But who are we to judge the judgments of God? Who can even perceive an iota of the mind of God? Where were we when He made the heavens and the earth? After all, not even total depravity or apostasy

would exhaust the infinite Mercy of God. Let us accept our portions gratefully while remembering the laborers who were hired at the eleventh hour and still received the same wages as the ones who had borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day. In the words of Saint John the Solitary of Jerusalem, when we are baptized, we are plunged completely into the invisible world. And so, let us re-awaken the Intuition we once had by the merits of Holy Baptism and cleanse our awareness from the slums of material delusion; and the means by which we may do so require us not to plunge back in the baptismal font, for the seal of character is already there, but rather meekly reconcile with God by the merits of the blood of the Lamb. Let us go back to God and earnestly request permission to re-enter into the garden of divine bliss and tranquility. Let deep contemplation break the fetters of material desires and purge all kinds of bad habits that impede our pilgrimage towards the citadel of our heavenly Father, our true and original home, at whose door we ought to knock. For when we knock, it shall open. And there is only one legitimate entry door—that is, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for whoever climbs in by another way is a thief and a robber. Let the infinite Mercy and Compassion of the Father irradiate any trace of jealousy at its very roots once and for all. Let us accept and be assured of God's divine Justice, even though it never compromises His infinite Mercy patiently waiting at the porch for His children to come home regardless of the gravity of our sins. And as soon as we come to ourselves—like the Prodigal Son who came to himself and arose—we, too, shall arise and go to the Father, Who upon seeing us from yet a distance, will hurry and meet us in our lowliness, and with His Holy Spirit persuade us to freely choose to stay with Him.

And while here on earth, we may wholesomely walk and be with Him and our fellow Christians under the custody of our majestic Catholic Church—the vestibule of heaven, until we regain the lucid vision of Him in heaven and restore the obedient hearing of His commandments so we may continue to persevere towards heaven, and in good Hope earn the eternal crown of Glory by reclaiming our status as Sons of God in Christ Jesus. In closing, I would like to echo the words St. Paul says to the Galatians: Are you so foolish? Having begun with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? Did you experience so many things in vain? So let us like the Prodigal Son acknowledge our misguided desires and resolve to return to the Father. Let us shed away all obscurity of ignorance in the flesh by the gentle rays of divine light and wisdom in the Spirit. Let us go back to ourselves, arise, and seek the Lord first and foremost. And for those who need not chastisement in terms of riotous living and profligacy but rather claim righteousness and uprightness, and perhaps rightly so; nonetheless, let them grow in virtue instead, and never again become jealous from others' claims of their sonship to God, nor judge others for still neglecting that precious adoptive right, rather, be faithful members of the body of Christ; help the aching members of the body find healing, for if one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. So, rejoice and be glad, for the Prodigal Son was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.

Antoine Dagher

Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon Cathedral

Los Angeles, CA

*Eparchy of Our Lady
of Lebanon of Los Angeles*



DIVINE LITURGIES

**Saturday, March 19, @ 6:00PM,
FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH**

Sunday, March 20, @ 11:00AM,
liturgy in offered for the soul of the
Starr / Bittner families requested
by Salema and Barbara Dahdah.
May their souls rest in peace.

**Thursday, March 24, @ 6:00PM
FEAST OF THE
ANNUNCIATION**

**Friday, March 25, @ 6:00PM,
STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Saturday, March 26, @ 6:00PM,
liturgy is offered for the soul of
Maria Navarro requested by the
Ortiz family. May her soul rest in
peace.

Sunday, March 27, @ 11:00AM,
liturgy in offered as 1-year
anniversary for the soul of John
Joseph requested by family. May
his soul rest in peace.

THANK YOU

Thank you for everyone who donated
to the Church this past week. Our
Church's finances rely on the
generosity of our community,
including Sunday collections and
donations. If you are able to donate,
please do so via the following link:
<https://saintmaron.org/donate> or you
can always mail your weekly
envelopes/donations to the Church
office. Thank you for your continuous
support during these challenging times.



PALM SUNDAY CANDLES

Every year Mrs. Carol Sawan offers
her talents to Saint Maron Church by
decorating Shaanini Candles for
Children. This year she's still willing
to make these candles upon order. If
you wish to have a decorated candle
for your child, please contact Carol at
215-802-1705.

ELDERLY COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion
at home, please contact the Church
Office at 215-389-2000.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR March 12-13, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$	854.00
Donation	\$	20.00
Online	\$	210.00
Coffee Hour	\$	13.00
Total:	\$	1,097.00

BISHOP'S APPEAL

TOTAL RECEIVED\$	1,285.00
GOAL	\$ 3,500.00
BALANCE	\$ 2,215.00

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers
Stephanie Devinney, Angela Scorza
Anderson, Lisa McBride, Robert
Nigro, Thomas Jones, Raymond
Fitzpatrick, Henry George, Linda
Yeckes, Frankie Olivieri, Richy
Grande, Marie Eddis, Mia Andrilla,
Jimmy Romeo, Natalie Ciancaglini,
Ashley Iaconelli, Stephen Bressi,
Elissar Ayoub, Joanne Simon-
Turing, Kevin Khoury, Suzanne
Haney, Linda DiBernardo, Joan
Speck, David Joseph Cook, Eddie
Tayoun, Panichi, Dennis Strelchuk,
Gladys Dalcourt, Denise Furey,
Mirta Ruiz, Rita Impo, Jade Kellam,
Marion Thomas Branca, Francesca
Impo, Lucy DiLuce, Laurent
Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi
Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Lisa
Alestra, John Nader, Joey Gdowick,
Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer
Chokeir, Kathy Newman, Rita
Arrigale, Maryann Bratton, Renee
Sahar, Sister Nahida Al-Sawa,
James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes,
Debbie Freedenberg, Noel
Andjuhar, and Angel Salerno. We
ask Almighty God to bless them
with good health so that they may
join us in the Church and give glory
and thanksgiving to God. Please
notify the Church office of any
family member who is ill so that we
may remember them in our daily
prayers and on our altar of intention.

Readings

First Reading

2 Corinthians 13:5-13

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:11-32

Our Mission Statement

To seek to know the love of God revealed
in Jesus Christ, to celebrate together as a
united family of faith, and to share our
gifts and talents in loving service to others.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is
burning for a
Special Intention

Fr. Andrewos (Fadi) ElTabchi, Pastor | Fr. David Fisher, Consultant

Janah Szweczyk, Religious Education Director | address: 1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

Office: 215-389-2000 | Hall Reservations: 215-334-1884 | For Emergencies: 978-241-2977

Website: www.saintmaron.org | Church Office: saintmaronphiladelphia@hotmail.com | Instagram Page: @saintmaronphiladelphia

Facebook Page: Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church of Philadelphia

OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday @ 6:00PM

From March 4 to April 8



FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Thursday, March 24, @ 6:00PM



GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Friday, March 25 & Friday, April 1

After Stations of the Cross



PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Tickets are Now Available



ANNUAL BAKE SALE

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Details will be announced soon



HOLY WEEK

Coming to the Harbor

Monday, April 11, 2022 @6:00PM

Coming to the Harbor

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 @6:00PM

Rite of the Lamp

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 @6:00PM

Thursday of the Mysteries

Thursday, April 14, 2022 @6:00PM

Signing of the Chalice

Friday, April 15, 2022 @10:30AM

Adoration of the Cross

Friday, April 15, 2022 @6:00PM

Prayer for Forgiveness

Saturday April 16, 2022 @12:00PM

FALAFEL SANDWICHES

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY



Saint Maron Church
Philadelphia, PA كنيسة مار مارون

Sunday, March 20, 2022

after Divine Liturgy



**Falafel
Sandwiches \$8.00**

ANNUAL BAKE SALE

PRE-ORDER NOW



Saint Maron Church

Philadelphia, PA كنيسة مار مارون

1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

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Annual Bake Sale

Sunday,
April 10, 2022

Maamoul

1/2 DOZ. DATES \$ 8.00

1/2 DOZ. WALNUT \$ 9.00

1/2 DOZ. PISTACHIO \$ 10.00

Cookies

1/2 DOZ. PEACH \$ 5.00

1/2 DOZ. STRAWBERRY \$ 5.00

Biscotti

BISCOTTI LOG - LEMON \$ 10.00

(Serves 12pcs.)

BISCOTTI LOG - ANISE \$ 10.00

(Serves 12pcs.)

Combos

VARIETY PACK \$ 20.00

(6 Maamoul, 4 Cookies, 1 Biscotti)

GIFT PACK \$ 35.00

(12 Maamoul, 6 Cookies, 1 Biscotti)

PRE
ORDER
NOW



ONLINE ORDERS & PRE-ORDERS

Pick Up: **Saturday, April 9, 2022**

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

Tickets are Now Available!



1892 Saint Maron Church
Philadelphia, PA كنيسة مار مارون

Palm Sunday Brunch

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Following Divine Liturgy

at

Saint Maron hall

1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

For Reservations and more Info:

215-389-2000

office@saintmaron.org



DONATIONS

\$20.00 Adults

\$10.00 Children (11yrs. & under)



CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE EPARCHY



EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

109 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201-4212
Tel: (718) 237-9913 Fax: (718) 243-0444
chancerystmaron@verizon.net www.stmaron.org

March 3, 2022

Prot. No. 250/1/22
Circ. No. 22.18

Brother Priests, Deacons and Subdeacons, Consecrated Men and Women, Brothers and Sisters;

In my letter of 28 May 2021 (Prot. No. 356/1/21; Cir. No. 21.16), I reinstated the obligation for all to attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligations on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Sunday June 27, 2021, I also stated the following:

Barring anything unforeseen, we hope to return to the normal exchange of the Greeting of Peace and totally eliminate Holy Communion in the hand, as of August 15, 2021, the Feast of the Assumption.

The Delta, then Omicron variants of the Corona Virus became that “unforeseen” situation. Thus, I have waited until it was safer to return to our ancient practice of communion on the tongue by intinction under both species.

On the Feast of Saint Joseph, March 19, 2022, I ask all pastors to return to this practice and no longer give Holy Communion in the hand. Likewise, the sign of peace is to be returned in the customary way.

I thank the priests once again for their faithful service as true pastors during these difficult times.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ 

+ Gregory

GJM/rb

RICE BOWL

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. These past two years have been challenging for everyone—and certainly even more challenging for people who already struggled. One in 9 people around the world are hungry. COVID-19 has only increased the threat of food insecurity globally. We encourage you to participate in the crsricebowl.org program. It is family oriented and easy to begin.

You can find the Rice Bowl Boxes in the back of the Church and also in the Hall.

FOR
LENT
FOR
LIFE

crsricebowl.org
crsplatodearroz.org

2022 CRS Rice Bowl
Maronite Catholic Church Lenten Calendar

February 27 th	Sunday of Cana in Galilee / Entrance into Lent
February 28 th	Ash Monday – the Great Fast begins
March 6 th	Sunday of the Lepers, Second Sunday of Lent
March 6 th -March 12 th	A JOURNEY TO 3 COUNTRIES
March 13 th	Sunday of the Hemorrhaging Woman, Third Sunday of Lent
March 13 th -March 19 th	A STORY OF HOPE-GUATEMALA – <i>Options for the Poor</i>
March 20 th	Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 20 th -March 26 th	A STORY OF HOPE- BANGLADESH – <i>Care for God's Creation</i>
March 27 th	Sunday of the Paralytic, Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 27 th -April 2 nd	A STORY OF HOPE-RWANDA – <i>Dignity of the Human Person</i>
April 3 rd	Sunday of Bartimaeus the Blind, Sixth Sunday of Lent
April 3 rd - April 9 th	WE ALL HAVE DREAMS – <i>Dignity of Work</i>
April 10 th - April 17 th	HOLY WEEK
April 10 th	Hosanna Sunday
April 14 th	Thursday of Mysteries
April 15 th	Great Friday of the Crucifixion
April 16 th	Great Saturday of the Light
April 17 th	GREAT SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

For virtual Rice Bowl please join us at CRSRiceBowl.org

What You Give Up For Lent Changes Lives

PRAY

FAST

GIVE

NATIONAL MYO CONFERENCE

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO ALL OUR YOUTH



Introducing Me

A Blessed week to you and your loved ones. We are excited to share with you that..

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Yes, you heard right! We are so excited to announce that registration for our **2022 National MYO Conference** is now open!

Head on over to www.maroniteyouth.org and register now for our early bird pricing! **Pricing increases after March 26, so please encourage your youth to register as soon as possible!**

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at office@maroniteyouth.org. **Please mark your calendars, save the date, and spread the word!** We can't wait to see you June 23-27, 2022 at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, PA!

In Christ,
The National Maronite Youth Organization

You have received this email because you have subscribed to [Maronite Youth.Organization](http://MaroniteYouth.Organization) as srtherese2010@gmail.com. If you no longer wish to receive emails please [unsubscribe](#).



MYO Office: 11935 Bellfort Village Drive, Houston, TX 77031
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MYA EPARCHIAL CONFERENCE

THE EPARCHY OF ST. MARON PRESENTS

MYA EPARCHIAL CONFERENCE

RESTORATION:
ARISE & WALK
MARK 2:1-12

REGISTER BY SCANNING
THE CODE BELOW!



MARCH 25-27, 2022
OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH
BOSTON, MA

HOTEL: HYATT REGENCY BOSTON/
CAMBRIDGE

GROUP DISCOUNT CODE: G-ORLA

REGISTRATION FEE: \$100



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Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



March 19-20, 2022

First Reading

2 Corinthians 13:5-13

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. Your blessing father...

Brothers and Sisters:

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? unless, indeed, you fail to pass the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل قورنثس

يا إِخْوَتِي، إِخْتَبِرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ رَاسِخُونَ فِي الْإِيمَانِ. إِمْتَحِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ. أَلَا تَعْرِفُونَ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ فِيكُمْ؟ إِذَا كُنْتُمْ مَرْفُوضِينَ! فَارْجُوا أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَنَّ نَحْنُ لَسْنَا مَرْفُوضِينَ! وَنُصَلِّي إِلَى اللَّهِ كَيْ لَا تَفْعَلُوا أَيَّ شَرٍّ، لَا لِنُظْهِرَ نَحْنُ مَقْبُولِينَ، بَلْ لِكَيْ تَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ الْخَيْرَ، وَنَكُونَ نَحْنُ كَأَنَّنا مَرْفُوضُونَ! فَإِنَّا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَّ الْحَقِّ، بَلْ لِأَجْلِ الْحَقِّ! أَجَلْ، إِنَّا نَفْرَحُ عِنْدَمَا نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضِعْفَاءَ، وَتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُمْ أَقْوِيَاءَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا أَيْضًا نُصَلِّي لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا كَامِلِينَ. أَكْتُبُ هَذَا وَأَنَا غَائِبٌ، لِنَلَّا أَعْمَلَكُمْ بِقِسَاوَةٍ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الَّذِي أَعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ، لِنُبْنِيَانَكُمْ لَا لِهَدْمِكُمْ. وَبَعْدُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، إِفْرَحُوا، وَاسْعَوْا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَتَشَجَّعُوا، وَكُونُوا عَلَى رَأْيٍ وَاحِدٍ، وَعِيشُوا فِي سَلَامٍ، وَإِلَهُ الْمَحَبَّةِ وَالسَّلَامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ! سَلِّمُوا بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقُبْلَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ. جَمِيعُ الْقَدِيسِينَ يُسَلِّمُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ. نِعْمَةُ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَشَرِكَةُ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ!

والتسبيح لله دائماً.

Gospel Reading

Saint Luke 15:11-32

The Apostle Writes:

The Lord Jesus says: 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: "كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حِصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَقَسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَرَوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الابْنُ الْأَصْغَرُ كُلَّ حِصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَدَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطُّيُشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُحْسِبُ بِالْعَوَزِ. فَذَهَبَ وَلَجًا إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حُقُولِهِ لِيَرْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخُرُوبِ الَّتِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهَا، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَارْجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْزَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يُفْضَلُ الْخُبْزُ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلُكَ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدَ أَنْ أُدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا. فَأَجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ! فَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَاهُ أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَأَلْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدَ أَنْ أُدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَأُخْرِجُوا الْحُلَّةَ الْفَاخِرَةَ وَالْبُسُوهَ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدَيْهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأَثُوا بِالْعَجَلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَادْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلْ وَنَتَنَعَّمَ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ، وَصَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَأَقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَفْصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْعِلْمَانِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَخُوكَ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعَجَلِ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَخْدُمُكَ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السِّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أَخَالَفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَتَنَعَّمَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا أَكَلَ ثَرَوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَانِي، ذَبَحَتْ لَهُ الْعَجَلِ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِيَ فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَنَعَّمَ وَنَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ، وَصَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ."

حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لِكُلِّكُمْ.