

Luke 15:22

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.'

I don't know about you, but I personally have been a prodigal in the past, and I know many other Christians who have been one as well. Not that's a good thing or something you should consider pursuing, because we can all tell you it was the worst thing we ever could had done.

But there is one cool thing about it though, and that's God love for us.

I would encourage you to read the parable that Jesus told about the prodigal son, and read God's love for his children in it in Luke chapter 15.

I was listening to pastor Greg Laurie the other night and what he said about this parable is so true. You see the prodigal son told his dad that he cared more about the things of this world than his dad, and that he wanted the material things that his dad had for him (his inheritance). So his dad gave him what he asked for and *A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. Luke 15:13 (NLT)*

Basically he blew his entire inheritance on partying. After that, all those so-called friends he thought he had, abandoned him because he wasn't throwing all his money away on them anymore, because he didn't have any. So he ended up working on a pig farm, feeding pigs, and not only that but *The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. Luke 15:16 (NLT)*

Eating pig slop and hanging with the pigs and smelling like the pigs. Now if we just stopped right there it would be a sad ending. But it doesn't end there, because Jesus wants us to see the Father's love for us. Once again, I want to encourage you to read the entire story, but when you get to the part where the son comes home and his father runs to him and embraces him. Just remember that he was eating pig slop and hanging with the pigs and smelled like the pigs. Simply he stinketh (That's King James English) Now I'm not talk the normal homeless person who hasn't showered in a week type stink, I'm talking a homeless pig that hasn't taken a bath in months stink.

So read the father's response and notice what he **doesn't** say, *"Man, you smell worse than a stinking pig, go clean yourself up before you even consider coming back here or even talking to me. You got what you deserve, now go back to your pigs, because we don't want your stinky filth around here."*

No, instead, today's devotional verse is the father's response: *'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'*

His father didn't tell him to go get cleaned up first, rather he welcomed him back home and his father did the cleaning up, not with soap and water but he went beyond a normal cleaning. He gave him *the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.*

If you are a prodigal son or daughter, that should be encouraging news for you, because the Father is waiting for you to come back to Him, just as you are. Don't try to clean up your own act, because we know we can never clean ourselves up enough. No, let the Father clean you up with something far greater than soap and water, but rather with the precious blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

✠ **1 Peter 1:2 (NLT)** *God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.*