

BTC - OCTOBER 23, 1988

(LUKE 15: 11-24)
(JONAH 1-4)

"SAYING I'M SORRY"

(THE PRODIGAL SON)

ONE DAY WHEN JESUS WAS PREACHING AND TEACHING THE PEOPLE, HE TOLD THEM SOME STORIES TO HELP THEM LEARN ABOUT GOD'S LOVE. THIS IS ONE OF THE STORIES THAT JESUS TOLD TO THEM....

A MAN HAD TWO SONS. THE YOUNGER SON SAID, "FATHER, GIVE ME ALL THE MONEY YOU HAVE BEEN SAVING FOR ME TO HAVE SOME DAY. I WANT THAT MONEY RIGHT NOW."

THE FATHER GAVE THE YOUNGER SON ALL THAT MONEY. A FEW DAYS AFTER THAT, THE YOUNGER SON PACKED UP ALL THE THINGS HE OWNED AND ^{WENT} FAR AWAY TO LIVE BY HIMSELF

WHEN THE YOUNGER SON GOT TO HIS NEW PLACE TO LIVE, THE BIBLE TELLS US, HE LIVED FOOLISHLY. THE BIBLE SAYS HE SPENT EVERY BIT OF MONEY HE HAD.

ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT HE SPENT ALL HIS MONEY, A TERRIBLE FAMINE BEGAN (NO FOOD). THEN THE YOUNGER SON WAS SO POOR - HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY OR ANY FOOD. IT WAS PROBABLY HARD TO FIND A JOB BECAUSE OF THE FAMINE. FINALLY HE FOUND A JOB FEEDING PIGS. (THE JEWS THOUGHT PIGS WERE THE FILTHIEST

ANIMALS OF ALL. THEY NEVER ATE MEAT OF A PIG AND DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO BE NEAR A PIG. BUT THIS SON WAS SO HUNGRY THAT IF HE DIDN'T TAKE THIS JOB HE MIGHT STARVE.)

THE SON WAS SO HUNGRY THAT HE WISHED HE COULD HAVE SOME OF THE PIGS FOOD. THEN THE SON THOUGHT ABOUT HIS FATHER. THE SON THOUGHT, "THE MEN WHO WORK FOR MY FATHER HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD, AND I AM HERE ALONE, STARVING! I AM GOING TO GO BACK HOME AND TELL MY FATHER I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE. I AM GOING TO TELL MY FATHER I KNOW I HAVE SINNED AND I AM NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO BE ^{HIS} SON; THEN I WILL ASK HIM IF HE WILL LET ME BE ONE OF HIS WORKERS."

SO THE SON ^{STARTED} BACK TO SEE HIS FATHER. WHEN HE WAS STILL WALKING UP THE ROAD, AND FAR AWAY FROM HIS FATHER'S HOUSE, HIS FATHER SAW HIM COMING.

HIS FATHER WAS SO GLAD TO SEE THE SON, THAT HE RAN UP THE ROAD AND HUGGED AND KISSED HIM.

THE SON SAID, "FATHER, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST GOD AND AGAINST YOU. I AM NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR SON. I AM SORRY."

BUT HIS FATHER ^{SENT} THE SERVANTS TO GET SOME NICE CLOTHES, AND SHOES, AND

A RING FOR HIS SON. THEN THE FATHER HAD THE SERVANTS FIX A WONDERFUL DINNER TO CELEBRATE BECAUSE HIS SON CAME BACK HOME.

THIS SON HAD DONE A WRONG THING BY GOING AWAY FROM HOME AND WASTING ALL HIS MONEY. AFTER ALL HIS MONEY WAS GONE, THE SON THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HE HAD DONE; THEN HE KNEW HE HAD DONE THE WRONG THING. HE DECIDED TO COME BACK HOME AND TELL HIS FATHER "I'M SORRY." WHEN HE CAME HOME AND SAID, "I'M SORRY", HIS FATHER STILL LOVED HIM AND HIS FATHER FORGAVE HIM.